Intro to Political Analysis

Meeting:
Instructor: EmiLee Smart
Email: Canvas Inbox or emilee.simons@uky.edu
Office: 1606 Patterson Office Tower
Office Hours: W 1:00-2:30pm & T 2:00-3:30pm in-person or zoom by appointment
Zoom Office Hours:

Course Information

Overview
This course is designed to introduce students to the skills for interpreting, conducting, presenting, and analyzing political science statistical research. Over the course of the term, you will learn how to think like social scientists while developing various skills required by the discipline: how to choose which method to employ, how to undertake original research (complete with data collection and analysis), and how to present your findings to colleagues. The goal at the end of this class is to help you understand and conduct quantitative political research that will be useful in both academic and professional settings.

Objectives and Learning Outcomes
On successful completion of this course, you will be able to:
- Describe and assess the logic of political science research in particular and of scientific research in general.
- Comprehend the basic concepts, steps, and design involved in the systematic research process.
- Learn how to analyze data, communicate research findings and be an intelligent consumer of research.

Required Textbook
Thyne, Clayton L. *Political Analysis for the Rest of Us: An Accessible Take on the Science of Political Science* (Van-Griner Publishing, Cincinnati, OH, 2018).

Throughout the semester, the class will consist of lecture, group activities, as well as discussion of supplemental materials provided on Canvas. You should complete these readings <u>before</u> each Tuesday's lecture.

Evaluation Criteria

How to Be SUCCESSFUL in this course
- Read and/or watch **all** assigned material before coming to class- this will NOT be a normal lecture class. YOU MUST COME PREPARED!
- Be prepared to discuss and participate in class
- Begin to develop college-level academic writing. Resources, including the instructor, are available to students who need to improve their writing.
- Turn in assignments on Canvas on time
- If you have any concerns do not hesitate to reach out to me **<u>early</u>**

Distribution of points

Attendance	10% of grade
Research Portfolio	10% of grade
Chapter Assignments	40% of grade
Midterm and Final Exam	40% of grade

Final grade distribution

A	90-100%
B	80-89.9%
C	70-79.9%
D	60-69.9%
E	Below 60%

Description of Course Components:

Attendance (10% of total)

Attendance is required. Attendance will randomly be taken 10 times throughout the semester. Each random attendance call will result in 1% of your total grade. If you miss an attendance call, you will only be excused if you have a university approved excuse. If you have to miss a class due to illness, I will post my PowerPoint slides to Canvas. In addition, I will also be happy to meet with you via zoom to go over issues you do not understand from the readings and class.

Please arrive to class prepared and on-time. You should come to class having already read and studied the material. You are expected to always behave respectfully towards your fellow students.

Research Portfolio (10% of total)

The research portfolio will be a project you work on throughout the semester and will be due before 11:59pm on December 1st. This portfolio will be an easily accessible and personalized notebook that can be a statistics and research resource you use in future courses and situations. This portfolio can also be used as a resource during the cumulative final exam as well. This will be an 8–10-page double spaced (12-point font) document. You will be graded on Accessibility, Uniqueness, and Anticipated Value. A portfolio that is highly accessible means you include specific and important information related to each chapter of the course. A highly unique portfolio will do more than include text- book definitions and formulas. Your portfolio should include examples, formulas, and definitions that are unique to helping you understand the material. A portfolio with a high anticipated value will demonstrate a high benefit to you in the future. More information about the assignment, as well as examples, will be given during the first week of class and will be included on Canvas.

Chapter Assignments (40% of total)

There will be 12 assignments total each resulting in a little over 3% of your final grade.
The purpose of these assignments is to make sure that you are keeping up with the readings and learning the material. They are meant to be easy for those who are putting in the required time and effort. They are a great way to practice and prep for the exams. We will review and grade these each week in groups, usually on Thursdays.

These assignments must be submitted to Canvas as a pdf ONLY. All other formats will be given a zero. Since we will review these as a class, these assignments will not be accepted late unless you have a university approved excuse.

Exams (40% of total)

There will be two exams – a midterm and a final. Each will be a combination of identification, short answer, T/F, multiple choice, essay, and file-upload questions. The exams are designed to

test your familiarity with the lecture material, reading assignments, and your independent ability to apply what you have learned. You will take the exams in-person during class time, or during the scheduled final exam time set by the University.

Course Policies

Late Work
For the major written assignments in the course, there will be a one-letter grade per day late penalty (including weekends), up to half of the value of the assignment. This does NOT include the chapter assignments. After one-week, late assignments will no longer be accepted. If an issue arises that will prevent you from handing in an assignment on time, please contact me asap to make alternative arrangements for handing it in **early**.

Missing an Exam
I permit makeup exams for extreme situations. If you will be missing an exam for a University-approved reason (https://www.uky.edu/universitysenate/acadpolicy), you must provide written notice at least 1 week *in advance of the exam*. If you miss an exam due to an unexpected emergency (e.g., a serious personal or family health issue), notify me with formal documentation and I will be happy to work with you.

Grade Grievances
If you receive a grade that is lower than you believe your work merits, you may request a re-grade by submitting a typed grievance, using the criteria outlined in the assignment as the basis of your argument. The grievance must be submitted before your first discussion meeting following the return of the assignment. Your work will be reassessed in light of your appeal, and whatever grade it is assigned at this point (whether higher or lower than the original grade) will be final.

Contacting the Instructor
If you have a question about course policy, you should first consult your syllabus and canvas. If you still have questions about course policies or course content, feel welcome to email me directly or attend any office hours with questions.
Please email from your official university email account or through canvas (preferred). To protect your privacy, we will only respond to emails that are sent from your university email address or through the course's Canvas website (preferred). Monday through Friday I will be sure to respond within 24 hours.

Accommodations
I am happy to work with you if you have an academic accommodation from the Disability Resource Center. Please supply me email and hard copy documentation of the accommodation as soon as possible, and prior to any assignment or exam it will impact, and we will work together to make any necessary arrangements. If you need more information on how to get an academic accommodation, please visit: https://www.uky.edu/DisabilityResourceCenter/content/academic-accommodations.

Technology Policy
If you choose to use a laptop for all note taking, please sit near the back of the lecture hall so as not to distract other students. Phone use is not permitted for anything other than class participation.

Other Policies
This syllabus is a guide to the course for the student. However, the instructor may at her/his discretion, change content and requirements during the semester.

Course Schedule

Wk	Date	Topic	Readings Required	Assignment	Web Resources (Optional but highly recommended)
1	T Aug 23	Overview of course	Course syllabus	PURCHASE TEXTBOOK	
	Th Aug 25	Ch1: The Science of Political Science	Read Ch1	Ch1 assignment due by 1:00 pm on Aug 25th	• Introduction Video Canvas Opening Page • "What is Science?" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hDQ8ggroeE4 • "Introduction to Political Science" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jQK0Xbfel-M
2	T Aug 30- Th Sept 1	Ch2: Political Science and the Scientific Process	Read Ch2	Ch2 assignment due by 1:00 pm on Sept 1st	• "How to develop a good research topic" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nXNztCLYgxc • "How to do a literature review using Google Scholar" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ydzerd9FT0 • "Theories in Political Science" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EqAZZvfFVdY • "Intro to Hypothesis Testing in Statistics" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VK-rnA3-41c
3	T Sept 6- Th Sept 8	Ch3: Measurement	Read Ch3	Ch3 assignment due by 1:00 pm on Sept 8th	• "The Political Spectrum Explained in 4 Minutes" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JlQ5fGECmsA • "Reliability & Validity" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ltvDNAsO-I&t=51s • "Levels of Analysis" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WyggsLAGDc4 • "Types of Data: Nominal, Ordinal, Interval/Ratio – Statistics Help" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hZxnzfnt5v8
4	T Sept 13- Th Sept 15	Ch4: Operationalizing Concepts	Reach Ch4	Ch4 assignment due by 1:00 pm on Sept 15th	• "Using Secondary Data In Your Research" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DPDTZMm911Y • "Collecting Data" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kuyt0u_tFi4 • "Research Strategy: Experiment" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fMSA48fi6yc • "Internal versus External Validity" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RNsal_KrIpo • "Selection Bias: A Real World Example" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p52Nep7CBdQ "Sampling: Simple Random, Convenience, systematic, cluster, stratified" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=be9e-Q-jC-0
5	T Sept 20- Th Sept 22	Ch5: Describing Your Data	Reach Ch5	Ch5 assignment due by 1:00 pm on Sept 22	• "What is Central Tendency" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AdH5vfobH5E • "Normal Distributions, Standard Deviations, Modality, Skewness and Kurtosis: Understanding concepts" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HnMGKsupF8Q • "Standard Deviation" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=09kiX3p5Vek • "The Standard Deviation (and Variance) Explained in One Minute: From Concept to Definition & Formulas" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gpKEfVZlPj4 • "Parameters v Statistics" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UaiMKPNS0L4

					• "Understanding Confidence Intervals: Statistics Help" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tFWsuO9f74o • "Confidence intervals and margin of error" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hlM7zdf7zwU
6	T Sept 27- Th Sept 29	Ch6: Describing Data Visually	Read Ch6	Ch6 assignment due by 1:00 pm on Sept 29	• "Bar Graphs and Pie Charts" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YgvdxkP7aCo • "Histograms and Stem & Leaf Plots" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2uk-qRKWJj4 • "Statistics – Making a scatter plot" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NcgRa0uotXs • "How to create figures in Excel" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DjDaNnlYT3s
7	T Oct 4	Review Day in class- Study for Midterm Exam			
	Th Oct 6	**Midterm Exam in person 3:30-4:45pm**			
8	T Oct 11- Th Oct 13	Ch7: The Basics of Hypothesis Testing	Read Ch7	Ch7 assignment due by 1:00 pm on Oct 13th	• "Null and Alternate Hypothesis – Statistical Hypothesis Testing – Statistics Course" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Qlxt0HmuOo • "Type I error vs Type II Error" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a_l991xUAOU • "Normal Distribution & Z-scores" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mai23vW8uFM • "using a z-score table" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=85G_PLBTX00
9	T Oct 18- Th Oct 20	Ch8: Finding Differences in Two Means or Proportions	Read Ch8	Ch8 assignment due by 1:00 pm on Oct 20th	• "Testing Differences Between Means Using Excel" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TpD4hD3NeWo • "z-test vs. t-test" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YsalXF5POtY • "Introduction to the t Distribution (non-technical)" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uv6nGIgZMVw • "Confidence Interval Two Population Proportions" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lu9olYXnoSQ
10	T Oct 25	**Fall Break Oct 24-25: NO CLASS!**			
	Th Oct 27	Meet Individually to Discuss Portfolio Via Zoom with Professor			
11	T Nov 1-Th Nov 3	Ch9: Nominal-level Relationships	Read Ch9	Ch9 assignment due by 1:00 pm on Nov 3rd	• "Cross tabs, chi2 and hypothesis testing Part I" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i79uxRz7tLM • "Chi-squared Test" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WXPBoFDqNVk • "Cramer's V: Calculation and Interpretation" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BROyKPwsxKs • "Lambda" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q6LKhn2zv7M&t=30s
12	T Nov 8-Th Nov 10	Ch10: Ordinal- and Continuous-Level Relationships	Read Ch10	Ch10 assignment due by 1:00 pm on Nov 10	• "Kendall's tau – Explained Simply + Examples (part 1)" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oXVxaSoY94k&list=PLjsHs5EvjqvUPsDaOyGF2_c_u2vm2LTmk • "Math Tutorial: Pearson's correlation coefficient (statistics)" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=372iaWfH-Dg • "Correlation Formula – Intro to Statistics" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8RRYb-hgBRw
13	T Nov 15- Th Nov 17	Ch11: The Logic and Practice of Control	Read Ch11	Ch11 assignment due by 1:00 pm on Nov 17th	• "Lecture 6: Spurious, Additive, and Interactive Relationships" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qZqTKz-Bj3c

					• "Complex Experiments: 3 – Main effects and interactions" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1o4CO2mBmgU • "Calling Bullshit 3.3: Spurious Correlations" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WNsLcg2GQMY
14	T Nov 22	Meet Individually to Discuss Portfolio Via Zoom with Professor			
	Th Nov 24	**Thanksgiving Break Nov 23-26: NO CLASS!**			
15	T Nov 29- Th Dec 1	Ch12: Reading Published Work	Read Ch12	Ch12 assignment due by 1:00 pm on Nov 29th (TUESDAY) **PORTFOLIO DUE by 11:59pm on Dec 3rd (Saturday)**	• "Basic Elements of a Regression Table: Causal Inference Bootcamp" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o5nNOsawCPA • "Understanding Regression Analysis" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JPjW2HPTaEw
16	T Dec 6	Review Day			
	Th Dec 8	Reading Day-No Class			
17	T Dec 13	**Final Exam 1:00pm-3:00pm**			

*Note that all assignments are due (mostly Thursday) by 1:00pm, before the start of lecture, for the dates listed.

Official University Policies

Please see the website below for Academic Policy Statements related to (1) excused absences and acceptable excuses; (2) religious observances; (3) verification of absences; (4) make-up work; (5) excused absences for military duties; (6) unexcused absences; (7) prep week and reading days; (8) accommodation due to disability; (9) non-discrimination statement and Title IX information; and (10) regular and substantive interactions.
https://www.uky.edu/universitysenate/acadpolicy

For resources available to students, including Counseling Center, Libraries, MLK Center, etc., please see the following website:
https://www.uky.edu/universitysenate/student-resources