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544 Bellamy
Office Hours: Tuesday, 2:00-4:00pm
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Spring 2001
334 RBB
MWF 1:25-2:15pm

Research Methods in Political Science POS 3713

Course Description

This course is designed to acquaint students with research methods used by social scientists. Students will study terms and concepts used in research (e.g., theories, null and alternative hypotheses, independent and dependent variables, validity, reliability, generalizability), and research design (including experimental and quasi-experimental designs, survey design, and sampling). Students will be introduced to basic statistical techniques for analyzing data and the interpretation of coefficients and statistical tests (frequency distributions, measures of central tendency, measures of association, spurious correlation, regression, confidence intervals and tests of significance).

Course Requirements

The best way to learn this material is to have read the assigned readings **BEFORE** the class date in which they are discussed. This will enable you to be familiar with the new concepts as I discuss them in lecture and for you to ask questions. I expect this class to be quite relaxed, so jump in and ask questions or make remarks at anytime. There is **NO** such thing as a stupid question.

Your course grade is based on your performance on 3 exams and several homework assignments. The distribution of your final grade in the class is as follows:

Midterm Exam 1	20%
Midterm Exam 2	20%
Final Exam	20%
Homework	40%

1. Homework (40%): There are a total of 6 homework assignments (see class schedule) that will be distributed the first week of class; you can drop your lowest grade. You must turn in your assignment on the designated due date by 5:00pm in my mailbox located in 561A Bellamy. Assignments turned in late will **not** be accepted under any circumstances. I will automatically count a late or missing homework as your lowest grade.

2. Midterm Exams (40%): There are two midterm exams scheduled on Monday, February 5th and Wednesday, March 21st. The problems on exams will be very similar to those assigned as homework. They will include problem solving, short answer, and multiple choice.

3. Final Exam (20%): The final exam is on Friday, April 27th from 10:00am-12:00pm. This exam is not comprehensive.

The grading scale is as follows:

93-100	A	73-76	C
90-92	A-	70-72	C-
87-89	B+	67-69	D+
83-86	B	63-66	D
80-82	B-	60-62	D-
77-79	C+	59 or below	F

Textbooks and Required Materials

Manheim, Jarol B. and Richard C. Rich. 1995. *Empirical Political Analysis: Research Methods in Political Science (4th Edition)*. New York: Longman Publishing Group.

Healey, Joseph F. 1999. *Statistics: A Tool for Social Research (5th Edition)*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing Company.

<u>Class Schedule</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Required Reading</u>
Monday, January 8 th	Course Introduction	
Wednesday, January 10 th	Introduction: The Scientific Method	M&R, Chapter 1
Friday, January 12 th	Theory Building	M&R, Chapter 2
Monday, January 15 th	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, No Class	
Wednesday, January 17 th	Theory Building	M&R, Chapter 2
Friday, January 19 th	Building a Bibliography	M&R, Chapter 3
Monday, January 22 nd	Research Designs: Experiments	M&R, Chapter 5
Wednesday, January 24 th	Research Designs: Experiments	M&R, Chapter 5
Friday, January 26 th	Sampling	M&R, Chapter 6
Monday, January 29 th	Research Designs: Survey Research Assignment #1 Due	M&R, Chapters 7, 8, & 11
Wednesday, January 31 st	Operationalization & Measurement	M&R, Chapters 4 & 12
Friday, February 2 nd	Operationalization & Measurement	M&R, Chapter 14 Healey, Chapter 1
Monday, February 5 th	Midterm Exam #1	

<u>Class Schedule</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Required Reading</u>
Wednesday, February 7 th	Basic Descriptive Statistics	Healey, Chapter 2 M&R, Chapter 15
Friday, February 9 th	Measures of Central Tendency	Healey, Chapter 3
Monday, February 12 th	Measures of Dispersion	Healey, Chapter 4
Wednesday, February 14 th	Measures of Dispersion	Healey, Chapter 4
Friday, February 16 th	Normal Curve Assignment #2 Due	Healey, Chapter 5
Monday, February 19 th	Sampling	Healey, Chapter 6
Wednesday, February 21 st	Sampling	Healey, Chapter 6
Friday, February 23 rd	Confidence Intervals	Healey, Chapter 7
Monday, February 26 th	Confidence Intervals	Healey, Chapter 7
Wednesday, February 28 th	Hypothesis Testing: The One Sample Case	Healey, Chapter 8
Friday, March 2 nd	Hypothesis Testing: The One Sample Case	Healey, Chapter 8
Monday, March 5 th	Hypothesis Testing: The Two Sample Case	Healey, Chapter 9
Wednesday, March 7 th	Hypothesis Testing: The Two Sample Case	Healey, Chapter 9
Friday, March 9 th	Review Assignment #3 Due	
Monday, March 12 th	Spring Break, No Class	
Wednesday, March 14 th	Spring Break, No Class	
Friday, March 16 th	Spring Break, No Class	
Monday, March 19 th	Analysis of Variance	Healey, Chapter 10
Wednesday, March 21 st	Midterm Exam #2	
Friday, March 23 rd	Analysis of Variance	Healey, Chapter 10
Monday, March 26 th	Chi-Square	Healey, Chapters 11 & 12
Wednesday, March 28 th	Chi-Square	Healey, Chapters 11 & 12

<u>Class Schedule</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Required Reading</u>
Friday, March 30 th	Statistics for nominal and ordinal data Assignment #4 Due	M&R, Chapter 17 Healey, Chapter 13
Monday, April 2 nd	Statistics for nominal and ordinal data	Healey, Chapters 14 & 15
Wednesday, April 4 th	Statistics for nominal and ordinal data	Healey, Chapters 14 & 15
Friday, April 6 th	Measures of association: interval variables	Healey, Chapter 16
Monday, April 9 th	Measures of association: interval variables	Healey, Chapter 16
Wednesday, April 11 th	Regression Assignment #5 Due	Healey, Chapter 18
Friday, April 13 th	Regression	Healey, Chapter 18
Monday, April 16 th	Regression	Healey, Chapter 18
Wednesday, April 18 th	Applications	
Friday, April 20 th	Review for final exam Assignment #6 Due	
Friday, April 27 th	Final Exam, 10:00am-12:00pm	