POL 226: EMPIRICAL POLITICAL ANALYSIS
SPRING 2007

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Paula Holoviak
OFFICE: Graduate Center 211
OFFICE HOURS: Monday, 2 -3 PM
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TEXTS


COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To familiarize the student with basic techniques of statistical testing and research as applied to the fields of political science and public administration.
- To enable the student to read, comprehend and interpret statistical analysis and statistical research reports.
- To develop basic statistical skills, thereby enabling the student to design, conduct, and interpret statistical research.

GRADING

| Graded Lab Manual Assignments | 20% |
| Exams (2)                      | 25 % |
| Midterm                        | 25 % |
| Final Exam                     | 25%  |
| Participation                 | 5%   |
|                               | 100% |

CLASS PARTICIPATION: You can only benefit by attending class and participating in in-class exercises and discussions.

GRADED ASSIGNMENTS: Computer exercises from the text lab manual will be assigned throughout the semester, at least one week in advance of the due date. Each lab assignment is graded on a scale from 0 to 15 points, for a total of 105 points. This is your built-in extra credit. NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

COURSE OUTLINE
I. Introduction to Concepts of Empirical Analysis
   A. Terminology and Process of Political Research
      1. Finding information
      2. Internet research
   READINGS: Chapters 1 and 4
   B. Variables
      1. Concepts
      2. Operationalization of concepts
      3. Hypothesis testing
      4. Theory building
   C. Cause and Effect: Relationships in the Social Sciences
      1. Associations
      2. Causality
   READINGS: Chapter 2 and Chapter 5 pp. 60 - 65
   D. Research Design
      1. Qualitative research
      2. Quantitative research design
      3. Validity of research design
   READINGS: Chapter 6

   EXAM ONE

II. Data Collection and Preparation
   A. Survey Research
      1. Questionnaires
      2. Sampling
      3. Other sources of data
   READINGS: Chapters 7, 8 and 11
   B. Measurement
      1. Reliability
      2. Validity
      3. Levels of measurement
      4. Scaling
   READINGS: Chapter 5 pp. 65-86, Chapter 9
   IN CLASS EXERCISES: Intro and Chapter 1 in lab manual
   C. Using Data
      1. Coding data
      2. Content analysis
   READING: Chapter 10
   IN CLASS EXERCISE: Chapter 11 in lab manual
   GRADED ASSIGNMENT: Chapter 11 Question 1a and 1b in lab manual

   MIDTERM EXAM

III. Statistical Analysis: Univariate
   A. Percentiles, Percentages and Frequency Distributions
IN CLASS EXERCISE: Chapter 2 in lab manual
GRADED ASSIGNMENT: Chapter 2 Question 1a, 1b, and 1c in lab manual
   B. Measures of Central Tendency
      1. Mean, median, mode
      2. Measures of dispersion
      3. Normal distributions: z scores, sample distributions
READINGS: Chapters 15 and 16
GRADED ASSIGNMENT: Chapter 1 Questions 1 and 2 in lab manual

IV. Bivariate Statistics: Relationships Between Two Variables
   A. Statistical Significance
      1. Concepts
      2. Chi Square
   IN CLASS EXERCISE: Chapter 9 in lab manual
   GRADED ASSIGNMENT: Chapter 9, Question 2a, 2b, 2c and 2d in lab manual
      3. Difference of means, z and t tests
      4. ANOVA
   IN CLASS EXERCISES: Chapter 6, Question 1, Chapter 8 in lab manual
   GRADED ASSIGNMENT: Chapter 6, Question 2a, 2b, and 2c in lab manual
   B. Strength of Relationships
      1. Cramer’s V and Lambda - nominal level
      2. Gamma, Tau, and Somer’s d - ordinal level
   READING: Chapter 17, pp. 268-281
   IN CLASS EXERCISE: Chapter 10, Question 1 in lab manual
   GRADED ASSIGNMENT: Chapter 10 Question 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d and 2e in lab manual

EXAM #3

   C. Interval Level Variables
      1. Correlation
      2. Regression – simple
   READING: Chapter 17, pp. 282-290
   IN CLASS EXERCISE: Chapter 12 in lab manual
   GRADED ASSIGNMENT: Chapter 12 Question 1 and 2 in lab manual

V. Multivariate Analysis
   A. Statistical Control
      1. Contingency tables
      2. Partial correlation
   B. Multiple Regression
   READING: Chapter 18

VI. Presenting and Interpreting the Results of Empirical Research
   READING: Chapter 22

FINAL EXAM