

POLITICAL SCIENCE 585: TECHNIQUES OF POLITICAL ANALYSIS
Winter 2006 Syllabus

- Instructor: Stephanie Maruska
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- Class Meetings: Monday and Wednesday, 11:30 to 1:18, Derby Hall, room 0125
- Office Hours: Monday 10 to 11 at 2086 Derby; Wednesday 1:30 to 2:30 at 0125 Derby
- Required Texts: Pollock, PH (2005). *The Essentials of Political Analysis*, 2nd Edition.
Washington, D.C.: CQ Press. (abbreviated *Essentials*)
Pollock, PH (2005). *An SPSS Companion to Political Analysis*, 2nd Edition.
Washington, D.C.: CQ Press. (abbreviated *Companion*)

PURPOSE OF THE COURSE: This course is designed to introduce students to tools and methods of quantitative analysis in the social sciences. The course will be of particular benefit to anyone who intends to pursue graduate studies in the social sciences, law, medicine, business, or most academic fields. It should help all students to become more critical users of news and other research involving statistics.

This course may be used to satisfy the GEC requirement for quantitative and logical skills. As such, it reflects the following.

Goals/Rationale: Courses in quantitative and logical skills develop logical reasoning, including the ability to identify valid arguments, use mathematical models, and draw conclusions based on quantitative data.

Learning Objectives: Data Analysis. Students understand statistics and probability, comprehend mathematical methods needed to analyze statistical arguments, and recognize the importance of statistical ideas.

GRADING: There are 100 points available throughout the quarter, weighted as follows.

Lab exercises	10
Homework	30
Research paper	25
Midterm exam	15
Final exam	20

I follow standard guidelines for assigning grades, such that 93 to 100 is an A, 90 to 92.9 is an A-, 87 to 89.9 is a B+, 83 to 86.9 is a B, etc. I may adjust final scores by 1/3 of a letter grade, however, to reflect particularly strong or poor class participation.

ATTENDANCE: Often, a grading key will be distributed immediately after homework assignments are collected in class. For this reason, **NO LATE HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR ANY REASON.** If you are unable to attend class on a day when an assignment is due, you are welcome to leave your assignment in my mailbox or to send it via email **PRIOR TO THE BEGINNING OF CLASS.** Similarly, there is no opportunity to make up missed quizzes. These points are extra credit and are intended as a reward for regular class attendance and preparation for lecture. If you must be absent, it is your responsibility to check your email and to contact me for any announcements, homework assignments, or handouts that you have missed.

COMPUTER RESOURCES: Several of the homework assignments will require data analysis using SPSS. This programs are available in the Political Science computer lab as well as most other campus labs. For a current lab schedule, go to:

<http://sccweb.it.ohio-state.edu/public/hours/>

If you are interested in having a copy of SPSS for your own computer, you can download one free as an OSU student. For more information, go to:

http://www.oit.ohio-state.edu/site_license/

HONESTY: I will assume that all work submitted for this class is your own. Cases of suspected dishonesty will be referred to the university's committee on academic misconduct and handled in accordance with university rules and procedures.

DISABILITY: If you have any sort of physically, mentally, or emotionally disabling condition that affects your ability to participate in this course, it is your responsibility to bring this to my attention as soon as possible. The university offers a variety of options for students with disabilities, and I will do all I can to ensure that you are able to gain full benefit from the course and are graded appropriately.

SCHEDULE: Attached is a tentative schedule of lecture and lab topics, textbook readings, homework assignments, and exams. All assigned readings should be completed **BEFORE** the corresponding class meeting noted on the syllabus. Additional supplemental reading assignments and handouts will be distributed during lecture.

Typically, Mondays will be spent introducing new material in a lecture format. Wednesdays will be "lab" days, used to complete computer or group exercises, drawn largely but not exclusively from the lab book (*Companions*). In most cases, if you have read the *Companions* chapter(s) in advance, the lab period will be sufficient for completing the exercises. Otherwise, you will be responsible for completing the lab exercises on your own time.

POLITICAL SCIENCE 585: TECHNIQUES OF POLITICAL ANALYSIS
Winter 2006 Lecture Schedule

Wednesday, January 4
Class Introduction

PART I: DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS

Monday, January 9

Reading: *Essentials*, Introduction and Chapter 1, “Measurement of Concepts.”

Wednesday, January 11

Reading: *Companion*, “Getting Started,” Chapter 1, “Introduction to SPSS,” and Chapter 11, “Doing Your Own Political Analysis.”

Lab: Creating an SPSS dataset from a .txt file

Homework: Assignments 1 and 2 distributed in class

Monday, January 16

MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY, no class

Wednesday, January 18

Reading: *Essentials*, Chapter 2, “Explanations and Hypotheses.”

Lab: Creating an SPSS dataset from the Web

Homework: Assignment 1 due at start of class

Monday, January 23

Reading: *Essentials*, Chapter 3, “Describing Variables and Making Comparisons.”

Homework: Assignment 2 due at start of class, assignment 3 distributed

Wednesday, January 25

Reading: *Companion*, Chapter 2, “Descriptive Statistics,” and Chapter 3, “Making Comparisons.”

Lab: Descriptive statistics and simple comparisons

Monday, January 30

Reading: *Essentials*, Chapter 4, “Making Controlled Comparisons.”

Homework: Assignment 3 due at start of class

Wednesday, February 1

MIDTERM EXAM

Lab: Read and complete exercises from *Companion*, Chapter 4, “Transforming Variables in SPSS,” and Chapter 5, “Making Controlled Comparisons.” NOTE: Because of the midterm exam, we will not have in-class lab time this week, but you are still required to complete the lab assignment. I will announce optional extra lab hours for those who would like assistance with the exercises.

PART II: INFERENCE STATISTICS

Monday, February 6

Reading: *Essentials*, Chapter 5, “Sampling and Inference.”

Homework: Assignment 4 distributed

Wednesday, February 8

Reading: *Companion*, Chapter 6, “Making Inferences about Sample Means.”

Lab: Inferences from Samples

Monday, February 13

Reading: *Essentials*, Chapter 6, “Tests of Significance and Measures of Association.”

Homework: Assignment 4 due at start of class, assignment 5 distributed

Wednesday, February 15

Reading: *Companion*, Chapter 7, “Chi-square and Measures of Association.”

Lab: Measures of Association

Monday, February 20

Reading: *Essentials*, Chapter 7, “Correlation and Linear Regression.”

Homework: Assignment 5 due at start of class, assignment 6 distributed

Wednesday, February 22

Reading: *Companion*, Chapter 8, “Correlation and Linear Regression,” Chapter 9, “Dummy Variables and Interaction Effects.”

Lab: Regression analysis

Monday, February 27

Reading: *Essentials*, Chapter 8, “Logistic Regression.”

Homework: Assignment 6 due at start of class, assignment 7 distributed

Wednesday, March 1

Reading: *Companion*, Chapter 10, “Logistic Regression.”

Lab: Logistic Regression

Monday, March 6

Lab: Research Projects

Homework: Assignment 7 due at start of class

Wednesday, March 8

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

Friday, March 10

RESEARCH PROJECTS DUE, 4 p.m., Political Science mailroom, second floor, Derby Hall

Monday, March 13

FINAL EXAM, 11:30 to 1:18, Derby 0125