

Techniques of Political Analysis Syllabus
Political Science 585
Winter 2005

Instructor:	Unislawa Wszolek, M.A.	Office hour:	R 3:30 – 4:30
Office:	3078 Derby Hall	Class:	TR 1:30 – 3:18
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Course Description:

This class is designed to introduce students to the basic elements associated with research design and statistical analysis in the social sciences. Topics covered include probability, sampling, measurement, description of data, and statistical inference. The course presents statistical concepts, their applications to social science problems, and the interpretation of the results. Uses of the computer in aiding research will be emphasized throughout the course.

Prerequisites:

The course requires no prior experience with statistics, advanced mathematics, or computing. However, knowledge of mathematics at the level of high school algebra is recommended.

Textbook and Notes:

There is one required text for this course:

Levin, Jack and James Alan Fox. 2003. *Elementary Statistics in Social Research 9th Ed.*
Allyn and Bacon. (LF in the rest of the syllabus)

The class notes are also going to be provided and the lectures will mirror these notes.

Requirements and Grading:

To successfully complete this course, students might find it important to attend the course, participate during the class, and do the assigned readings and homeworks. The exams are designed in such a way that it will be very difficult to pass this course without making such efforts.

Class Participation: Students are expected to attend the class, to pay attention to the lectures and ask relevant questions. Class participation will be worth 25 points.

Homework: There are five homework assignments that are intended for computational practice. Each homework is worth 15 points for a total of 75 points. In addition, without doing the homeworks, it will be difficult to do well in the exam. No late homework will be accepted. The first part of class when homework is due will be used to answer questions on the assignment due that day. This may mean that you will need a copy of your questions separate from the assignment

you have just handed in. While you are encouraged to ask all questions about the assignments, no solutions with worked out problems will be provided. This is to encourage you to work through these problems for yourself.

Exams: An exam and a final will be given on the dates indicated on the schedule. The final will be comprehensive. The first exam will be closed book and closed notes. The second exam and the final will be open book and open notes, and you may use calculators. Elaborate calculators are not necessary, though it will be helpful to have one that has a square root key and allows accumulating sums and sums of squared elements with a single entry of each item. The exam will cover the same materials as homework and lectures, but the exams are long enough that you must be well prepared to finish them in the allotted time. If you know you will be absent prior to an exam and have a legitimate reason, arrangements to take the exam should be made prior to the date of the exam. If you miss an exam without prior notice, it is your responsibility to contact me. Arrangements for taking the exam outside class must be made before the next class meeting following the exam day or you will receive a zero on the exam. The first exam will be worth 100 points, the final exam will be worth 150 points.

Grades: The final grades will follow a scale of letter grades corresponding to percentage point intervals:

A	95—100	C+	77—79
A-	90—94	C	73—76
B+	87—89	C-	70—72
B	83—86	D+	67—69
B-	80—82	D	60—66
		E	Below 60

Student Misconduct:

No form of student misconduct (defined according to the University's Code of Student Conduct) will be tolerated in this class. Any and all incidents will be reported to the University immediately.

Students with Disabilities:

Any student with a physical, psychiatric, learning or medical condition which impedes their ability to complete the assignments of this course should notify the instructor and the Office for Disability Services by the end of the first week of class. All information and documentation of disability is confidential.

Extra Credit:

Opportunities to earn extra credit might arise during the course of the quarter. Although no specifics can be offered about these opportunities at this time, the instructor will inform students in class if and when such opportunities become available.

Final Caveat:

The instructor reserves the right to alter this syllabus as necessary. Every attempt will be made to adhere to this document, but depending on the interests of the students and unforeseeable events during the course of the quarter, some changes may be necessary. The best way to keep apprised of any changes is to attend class regularly.

Course Outline and Homework and Reading Schedule

Week 1: Organization

TUE (1/4/05) – Syllabus.

THR (1/6/05) – Begin R.

Week 2: Why the Political Scientist Uses Statistics

TUE (1/11/05) – Read Levin and Fox pp 1-8 & 13-19.

THR (1/13/05) – Continue reading Levin and Fox pp 1-8 & 13-19.

Week 3: Organizing Data and R

TUE (1/18/05) – Read Levin and Fox pp 8-12 & 27-68.

THR (1/20/05) – Homework 1 due before class.

Week 4: Measures of Central Tendency and Measures of Variability

TUE (1/25/05) – Read Levin and Fox pp 77-93 and 103-123.

THR (1/27/05) – Homework 2 due before class.

Week 5: Midterm Exam

TUE (2/1/05) – Class canceled to offer students time to review.

THR (2/3/05) – Midterm Exam. No office hours scheduled today.

Week 6: Probability and the Normal Curve, Samples and Populations

TUE (2/8/05) – Read Levin and Fox pp 135-161 and 169-198.

THR (2/10/05) – Homework 3 due before class.

Week 7: Testing Differences between Means

TUE (2/15/05) – Read Levin and Fox pp 207-242.

THR (2/17/05) – Continue reading Levin and Fox pp 207-242.

Week 8: Analysis of Variance and Nonparametric Tests of Significance

TUE (2/22/05) – Read Levin and Fox pp 255-304.

THR (2/24/05) – Continue reading Levin and Fox pp 255-304.

Week 9: Nonparametric Tests of Significance Continue

TUE (3/1/05) – Read Levin and Fox pp 255-304.

THR (3/3/05) – Homework 4 due before class.

Week 10: Correlation and Review

TUE (3/8/05) – Homework 5 due before class. Read Levin and Fox chapter on Correlation.

THR (3/10/05) – Review.

Comprehensive Final

TUE (3/15/05) 1:30 PM to 3:18 PM.