Course Overview:

This course introduces basic concepts and methods of statistics. Unlike the typical elementary statistical courses you may have taken, the emphasis here will be on applications in political science. The objective of this course is to help students acquire the literacy for understanding political science literatures based on the scientific approach, as well as to prepare interested students for more advanced methods courses. Topics include descriptive statistics, probability and probability distributions, sampling, sampling distribution, point estimation, confidence intervals, hypothesis testing, analysis of variance, contingency tables, correlation, and simple regression. Computing will be an integral part of this course. You will use SPSS to analyze data from Gallup Survey, General Social Survey, and/or National Election Study in homework assignments. In particular, you will be asked to replicate results reported in journal articles and book chapters. You are also encouraged to develop and work out your own research problems. There are no prerequisites for this course.

Grading Policy:

Homework Assignments (6 sets graded): 5% each set
In-Class Midterm Exam (March 9): 30%
In-Class Final Exam (Officially Scheduled at Friday, May 13, 7:00-10:00pm): 30%
Instructor’s Discretion (Attendance, Participation, etc.): 10%

Notes: (1) Plus/minus grades will be assigned for the final grade. (2) Students are allowed to work together on homework questions, but they should write their assignments independently.

Required Texts:


[JSTOR]/[Blackboard] In addition, a number of journal articles and book chapters are assigned as required readings. Most of these papers are political science applications of the statistical methods to be introduced. These papers are included primarily for use in homework assignments, and they often include parts that are beyond the scope of this course. These readings will be discussed in class only if time allows. Most of the papers are available online at JSTOR (http://www.jstor.org); others will be posted on the class Blackboard (https://courses.utexas.edu/). Reading these materials will help you get a better grip on the statistical concepts and methods introduced in this class. Lecture notes will also be posted on Blackboard.

Students with Disabilities:

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259. For more information, visit http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/.

University Honor Code:

The core values of the University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the University is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

Unauthorized collaboration and plagiarism are strictly prohibited. For definitions and examples of unauthorized collaboration and plagiarism, visit http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php

Accommodations for Religious Holidays:

By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Emergency Evacuation Policy:

Occupants of buildings on The University of Texas at Austin campus are required to evacuate buildings when a fire alarm is activated. Alarm activation or announcement requires exiting and assembling outside.

Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of each classroom and building you may occupy. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building.

Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class.

In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of faculty or class instructors.

Do not re-enter a building unless given instructions by the following: Austin Fire Department, The University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office.

Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL): 232-5050
Emergency Information Web Site: http://www.utexas.edu/emergency

Course Outline and Reading Assignments:

Week 1 Introduction
1/19: W&W, Chapter 1.

Week 2 Univariate Descriptive Statistics
1/26: SPSS, Lessons 1-10.
   *APSR,* 84:149-163.

**Week 3** Univariate Descriptive Statistics / SPSS Computing
1/31: Lab Session (Meet at BUR 120/124)
   SPSS, Lessons 11-14.
2/2: [Blackboard] 1984 “Gallup Survey Questionnaire”

**Week 4** SPSS Computing / Probability
2/7: Lab Session (Meet at BUR 120/124)
   SPSS, Lessons 15-20.
2/9: W&W, Sections 3-1, 3-2, 3-3, 3-4, 3-5.
   *APSR,* 93(September).

**Week 5** Probability Distributions
2/14: W&W, Sections 4-1, 4-2, 4-3.
2/16: W&W, Sections 4-4, 4-5, 4-6.

**Week 6** Probability Distributions
2/21: W&W, Sections 5-1, 5-2, 5-3.
   SPSS, Lesson 40

**Week 7** Sampling and Sampling Distribution
3/2: W&W, Sections 6-1, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

**Week 8** Review & Midterm Exam
3/7: Review and Catch-up
3/9: Midterm Exam

**Week 9** Spring Break

**Week 10** Point Estimation
3/21: Discussion of Midterm Exam

**Week 11** Confidence Intervals
3/28: W&W, Sections 8-1, 8-2, 8-5.
   in the 1984 Election.” *Political Psychology,* 11:459-484.

**Week 12** Hypothesis Testing
Week 13 Hypothesis Testing
       *APSR*, 84:149-163.

Week 14 Analysis of Variance

Week 15 Testing Relationships for Nominal and Ordinal Data
4/25: W&W, Chapter 17
       SPSS, Lessons 40.
       *Modern Political Analysis*.
       Chapter 9 of his *Introduction to Political Science and Policy Research*.
       *APSR*, 93(September).

Week 16 Testing Relationships for Interval Data: Correlation and Regression
5/2: W&W, Ch. 15-1.
5/4: W&W, Chs. 11-12.

Week 17 Final Exam (Officially Scheduled at Friday, May 13, 7:00-10:00pm)