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**Political Analysis 3001
Summer Semester, 2005**

Course Description: Understanding political phenomena and the study of politics requires a grounding in research design and data analysis. Data are simply pieces of information that are used to describe the world. To be informed consumers of this information, it is necessary to understand how data may be used and misused. Without that understanding, citizens and students are not well equipped to evaluate political or scholarly information. Upon successful completion of this course, participants will be better equipped to evaluate the popular and scholarly use of quantitative and qualitative information. The skills and materials presented here are useful not solely in reading political science research publications, but in more practical pursuits, like reading the paper, choosing a candidate, buying a house, and so on.

This course is designed to introduce students to a variety of research methods used by political scientists and other social science researchers. Upon completing the course, students should be able to evaluate others' research critically and design and complete their own research projects. To accomplish this, students will learn social science research terms and concepts, learn the rudiments of experimental and quasi-experimental research designs, learn about data collection and measurement, learn about data management and analysis, and learn how to frame a research question and design a research study. Students will be introduced to the basic logic of inference and to basic statistical techniques for analyzing data.

Text requirements: There are two required texts for this course available in the bookstore: Johnson, Janet B., and H. T. Reynolds. 2005. *Political Science Research Methods*. 5th ed. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press.

Corbett, Michael, and Michael K. Le Roy. 2003. *Research Methods in Political Science: An Introduction Using MicroCase*. 5th ed. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth. My lectures notes will be at Marriott Library Reserve Desk in a packet form. You need to read this material before lecture.

Week I

COURSE OUTLINE Introduction: Conducting Political Research.

READ: Johnson and Reynolds, Chapters 1 and 2

Corbett and Le Roy, Chapter 1, chapters 1 and 2 and scales of measurement from recommended reading

Week II

Assignments and Mini Proposal will be discussed.

Variables and Hypotheses READ: Johnson and Reynolds, Chapter 4

Corbett and Le Roy, Chapters 4 and 5, pages 12-18 and Writing the procedure chapter from recommended reading.

Week III

Library Orientation, we will meet at Marriott Library computer lab room 1735 from 6:00pm-7:00pm. Measurement and Operationalization

READ: Johnson and Reynolds, Chapter 6. pages 24-34 from recommended reading. Corbett and Le Roy, Chapters 2 and 3

From Ideas to Evidence: The Experimental Method and the Logic of Research design. READ: Johnson and Reynolds, Chapter 3

Week IV

Describing and Presenting Data: Frequencies, Central Tendency, and Dispersion. READ: Johnson and Reynolds, Chapter 11 & Corbett and Le Roy, Chapter 8. Descriptive Statistics, statistical significant and . Sampling from recommended reading. Read: Johnson and Reynolds, Chapters 9 and 10 & Corbett and Le Roy, Chapter 6

Week V

Observational Techniques and the Use of Archival Data .READ: Johnson and Reynolds, Chapters 7 and 8. Descriptive Research, questionnaire and Interview from recommended reading. Systematic Research and the Study of Political Questions Introduction to MicroCase. Validity and Reliability, and Correlation from recommended reading.

Week VI

Are these Variables Related? Contingency Tables and Measures of Association. READ: Johnson and Reynolds, Chapter 12, pp. 339-360 only Corbett and Le Roy, Chapters 9 and 10. Regression Analysis and Historical Research from recommended reading.

Week VII

T test and Analysis of Variance from recommended reading.

Week VIII

Is There Another Reason? Control Variables and Contingency Tables Read: Corbett and Le Roy, Chapter 12

Association Between Continuous Variables: Correlation and Bivariate Regression

READ: Johnson and Reynolds, Chapter 12, pp. 372-402

Corbett and Le Roy, Chapter 13

Week VIII

Drawing Inferences: Using the Chi-square Test of Significance with Contingency Table
READ: Johnson and Reynolds, Chapter 12, pp. 360-366 only. Read Chi square from recommended reading.

Your grade will be based on a score out of 355, made up of 170 points for assigned Homework Journal Critique 35 points Dissertation Critique 35 points and Mini proposal carries 100 points. 25 points for participation/attendance, 80 points for the midterm, 80 points for the final exam.

Homework: You are assigned homework from the exercises found throughout each chapter. This homework is not to be turned in. You should complete the homework as soon as you can after the material is covered in class. It is assigned to help you to prepare for the exams.

Disability Services: The U of U Political Science Dept seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the instructor and to the Center for Disability Services (CDS), [HYPERLINK "http://disability.utah.edu/,"](http://disability.utah.edu/) <http://disability.utah.edu/>, 160 Oplin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD) to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the CDS.

Taken from page 23 of the University of Utah General Catalog 2000-2002:

I (Incomplete) Grade. The grade I (incomplete) may be given for work not completed because of circumstances beyond the student's control, providing the student is passing the course and needs to complete 20 percent or less of the work required for the course. Arrangements must be made between the student and the instructor concerning completion of the work. An I grade must not be used in a way that permits students to retake a course without paying tuition. Students who attend classes during a subsequent term in an effort to complete a course must register (as a regular student or for audit) for the course that term...

Grading System The University uses the following grades: A, A- (excellent performance, superior achievement), B+, B, B- (good performance, substantial achievement), C+, C, C- (standard performance and achievement), D+, D, D- (substandard performance and marginal achievement), E (unsatisfactory performance and achievement)...

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

For policies not covered in this page, such as the Student Standards of Academic Performance, please use the electronic Policy and Procedures Manual at [HYPERLINK "http://www.admin.utah.edu/ppmanual/8/8-10.html"](http://www.admin.utah.edu/ppmanual/8/8-10.html)

<http://www.admin.utah.edu/ppmanual/8/8-10.html> .

The following are important dates for Spring 2005

Class Begins: Monday, May 16.

Last day to drop (delete) term and first session classes

Wednesday, May 25

Last day to add classes

Tuesday, May 31

Tuition payment due

Friday, June 3

Last day to withdraw from first session classes
Friday, June 3

Classes end
Wednesday, August 3

Reading day
N/A

Final exam period
Thurs-Fri, August 4-5

Grades available on the Web
Tuesday, August 16

ADDITIONAL CALENDAR DATES SUMMER SEMESTER 2005

Memorial Day holiday
Monday, May 30

Independence Day holiday
Monday, July 4

Pioneer Day holiday
Monday, July 25