Political Science 200

Political Data Analysis

Spring 2022

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TR 2:00-3:15 PM, LCD 001

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Office Hours TR 11:00-1:30

Syllabus

*Preamble*

Although this course is scheduled for on-campus lectures, due to the COVID situation this course will be conducted on-line for the first several weeks of class. During this period, lectures will be held “synchronously” **using Zoom through Blackboard at the scheduled lecture time of 2:00-3:15 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.** Written course materials will be published on Blackboard and your assignments are to be similarly submitted through Blackboard.

**Because your participation in this course will be dependent upon remote access to the University, please review the following technical requirements:**

* **Students not having at-home access to Blackboard should contact UIC Information Technology Services at https://it.uic.edu/services-support/student-resources.**
* **Technical, digital literacy, and research skills you are required to have include:**
1. Using the eLearning environment in Blackboard.
2. Emailing your instructor and attaching files to emails using the Inbox.
3. Verifying your browser is the most current version and browser privacy settings are correct. See the next section below
4. Creating files using MS Word, MS Excel, MS PowerPoint and attaching these files to your assignment submissions.
5. Managing your files. Create a folder for each course you are taking under My Documents on your computer. Create a folder for each week. Save your files often and with Lastname\_WeekX-assignmentX.docx. It's recommended that you save several versions to revert back to by adding -v1, -v2 etc. to the end of your filename for example Lastname\_Week1-assignment1-v1.docx and Lastname\_Week1-assignment1-final.docx.
6. You may also be asked to use a webcam and upload videos or audio files, use social media to communicate with your peers, or collaborate electronically.
7. Uploading MS Word, MS PowerPoint, MS Excel, PDFs in completing assignments.
8. Researching information in the UIC Library or using the databases available through the UIC Library. Make sure to include citations to avoid plagiarism.
9. Copying and pasting (“Control+C” for copying and “Control+V” for pasting on a PC, “Command+C” for copying and “Command+V” for pasting on a Mac) into a MS Word document or PowerPoint file.
10. Downloading and installing software and applications.
* **Blackboard Supported Browsers**

Blackboard can be accessed on Mac, Windows, Linux, and mobile device operating systems iOS and Android. Download the free Blackboard App for use on your mobile device. Blackboard recommends using the newest version of the following browsers and applications:

1. Chrome;
2. Firefox; or
3. Safari

**Please note that when uploading assignments to Blackboard, those assignments must be submitted as Word or pdf documents. Apple formatted documents cannot be viewed on Blackboard and need to be converted to Word or pdf formats.**

* **Make sure your browser is current with regard to the UIC computing and internet environment. This can be checked at https://media-as.academicpartnerships.com/apoc/browser\_check.html.**
* **Students not having the required technical skills should contact UIC Information Technology Services at UIC Information Technology Services at https://it.uic.edu/services-support/student-resources.**
* **Students not having the required library and research skills should contact the University Library at https://library.uic.edu.**

*Course Description*

*Course Objectives* The purpose of this course is to provide the political science student an opportunity to learn the methods of political science by experiencing primary research projects using the methods most frequently employed by political scientists. These methodologies include:

* Ethnographic analysis;
* Open-ended surveying;
* Closed-ended surveying;
* Direct behavioral observation;
* Historical analysis;
* Experimentation; and
* In-depth interviewing.

*Reading*

A. To provide a frame of reference for the empirical study of political behavior, we will read several works considered to “foundational”:

1. *Politics,* by Aristotle;
2. *The Prince*, by Machiavelli;
3. *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, by Hume; and
4. *The Theory of Social and Economic Organization*, by Weber.

B. We will also read *The Vice Lords*, by Lincoln Keiser. This is an excellent example of the ethnographic method of social-group analysis.

C. Finally, our textbook for the course will be *Understanding Statistical Analysis and Modeling*, by Bruhl.

**All of these books are required, and written assignments will be required for each text. These books can be obtained through the UIC Bookstore at www.uicbookstore.org.** In addition to the preceding books, we will also read several articles and essays that will be provided by the instructor.

*Projects* A large portion of the activity in this course will be focused on the completion of four major projects:

1. Conducting a self-analysis of the student’s social group memberships;
2. Conducting a set of in-depth interviews on a topic selected by the student;
3. Conducting a literature review of a topic selected by the student from a list supplied by the instructor; and
4. Analyzing survey data provided by the instructor.

*Investigator Training* Because we will be conducting primary research, each student will be required to complete the on-line “Investigator Training” course sponsored by the Office for the Protection of Research Subjects at UIC. The training course is provided by the organization CITIPROGRAM, and completion of this training is addressed as one of the course assignments.

*Lecture and Discussion Schedule*

| **Date** | **Topic** |
| --- | --- |
| 1/11/22 | Lecture 1, “Introduction”; instruction for CITIPROGRAM training |
| 1/13/22 | Lecture 2, “Introduction,” continued |
| 1/18/22 | Lecture 3, “Introduction,” continued |
| 1/20/22 | Lecture 4, “A Taxonomy of Groups” |
| 1/25/22 | Lecture 5, “Qualitative Research”; instructions for the *Vice Lords* reading assignment |
| 1/27/22 | Lecture 6, “Quantitative Research”; instructions for the *Politics* reading assignment |
| 2/1/22 | Lecture 7, “Quantitative Research,” continued  |
| 2/3/22 | *Vice Lords* discussion; instructions for the “Social Group Analysis” project |
| 2/8/22 | Instructions for the “In-depth Interviewing” project |
| 2/10/22 | *Politics* discussion; instructions for *The Prince* reading assignment |
| 2/15/22 | Questions on Chapters 1 and 2 readings; instructions on Chapter 3 analytical exercises |
| 2/17/22 | Instructions for “Literature Review” project |
| 2/22/22 | *The Prince* discussion; “Strategic Interaction Analysis” |
| 2/24/22 | Chapter 3 analytical exercises, instructions for Chapter 4 analytical exercises |
| 3/1/22 | “On the Experimental Method”; instructions for analyzing the paper “An Experimental Demonstration of the Not-So- Minimal Effects of Television News” |
| 3/3/22 | Chapter 4 analytical exercises |
| 3/8/22 | “An Experimental Demonstration of the Not-So- Minimal Effects of Television News” discussion; instructions for the “Dr. Strangelove” analysis assignment |
| 3/10/22 | Chapter 5 analytical exercises |
| 3/15/22 | “Dr. Strangelove” discussion; instructions for reading *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding* |
| 3/17/22 | Questions, comments, or concerns? |
| 3/22/22 | SPRING BREAK |
| 3/24/22 | SPRING BREAK |
| 3/29/22 | Open/Review |
| 3/31/22 | Instructions for reading *The Theory of Social and Economic Organization* |
| 4/5/22 | *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding* discussion |
| 4/7/22 | Instructions for the “Survey Data Analysis” project; instructions for analyzing the paper “The House Appropriations Committee as a Problem of Integration” |
| 4/12/22 | *The Theory of Social and Economic Organization* discussion |
| 4/14/22 | Special topics |
| 4/19/22 | “The House Appropriations Committee as a Problem of Integration” discussion |
| 4/21/22 | Special topics |
| 4/26/22 | Special topics |
| 4/28/22 | Closing remarks |

*Schedule of Assignments*

| **Assignment** | **Due Date** | **Points** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *Understanding Statistical Analysis and Modeling,* Chapter 1 Reading Reflections | 1/20/22 | 15 |
| *Understanding Statistical Analysis and Modeling,* Chapter 2 Reading Reflections | 1/25/22 | 15 |
| CITIPROGRAM Investigator Training | 1/27/22 | 10 |
| *The Vice Lords* Reading Reflections | 2/3/22 | 10 |
| *Politics* Reading Reflections | 2/10/22 | 10 |
| Social Group Analysis Project | 2/17/22 | 20 |
| *The Prince* Reading Reflections | 2/22/22 | 10 |
| Literature Review Project Part A | 2/22/22 | 2.5 |
| *Understanding Statistical Analysis and Modeling*, Chapter 3 Analytical Exercise | 2/24/22 | 10 |
| In-depth Interviewing Project | 3/1/22 | 20 |
| *Understanding Statistical Analysis and Modeling*, Chapter 4Analytical Exercises 1, 2, and 3 | 3/3/22 | 30 |
| “An Experimental Demonstration of the Not-So- Minimal Effects of Television News” Review | 3/8/22 | 10 |
| *Understanding Statistical Analysis and Modeling*, Chapter 5 Analytical Exercises 1 and 2 | 3/10/22 | 20 |
| “Doctor Strangelove” Analysis | 3/15/22 | 10 |
| Literature Review Project Part B | 3/15/22 | 15 |
| *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding* Reading Reflections | 4/5/22 | 10 |
| *The Theory of Social and Economic Organization* Reading Reflections | 4/12/22 | 10 |
| Literature Review Project Part C | 4/12/22 | 2.5 |
| “The House Appropriations Committee as a Problem of Integration” Project | 4/19/22 | 10 |
| Survey Data Analysis Project | 4/26/22 | 30 |
| Total Points |  | 270 |

The grading scale is as follows: 90-100% = A; 80-89% = B; 70-79% = C; 60-69% = D and below 60% = F.

***Academic Honesty***

**IT IS EXPECTED THAT EACH STUDENT WILL DO HIS OR HER OWN WORK. PLAGIARISM WILL RESULT IN A GRADE OF ZERO FOR THE OFFENDING ASSIGNMENT AND A SECOND OFFENSE WILL RESULT IN A FAILING GRADE FOR THE COURSE.**

*Other Policies*

All University-acknowledged religious holidays will be honored, and personal religious absences will be accepted with prior notification to the Instructor.

Any student with special instructional needs is requested to discuss those needs with me at the student’s earliest convenience.

All policies regarding student conduct—online and otherwise—are to be followed. Consult your student guide to the University for further details.