

Undergraduate Council  
 New Course  Course Change  
 Core Category: Math/Reason Effective Fall 2009

or

Graduate/Professional Studies Council  
 New Course  Course Change  
 Effective Fall \_\_\_\_

RECEIVED OCT 06 2008

1. Department: POLS College: CLASS
2. Faculty Contact Person: James Thurmond Telephone: 3-7622 Email: jthurmond@uh.edu
3. Course Information on New/Revised course:
  - Instructional Area / Course Number / Long Course Title:  
POLS / 3316 / Statistics for Political Scientists
  - Instructional Area / Course Number / Short Course Title (30 characters max.)  
POLS / 3316 / STATS FOR POLITICAL SCIENTISTS
  - SCH: 3.00 Level: JR CIP Code: 45.100.10 01 Lect Hrs: 3 Lab Hrs: 0
4. Justification for adding/changing course: To more accurately reflect course content/level
5. Was the proposed/revised course previously offered as a special topics course?  Yes  No  
 If Yes, please complete:
  - Instructional Area / Course Number / Long Course Title:  
\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_
  - Course ID: \_\_\_\_ Effective Date (currently active row): \_\_\_\_
6. Authorized Degree Program(s): BS/BA POLS
  - Does this course affect major/minor requirements in the College/Department?  Yes  No
  - Does this course affect major/minor requirements in other Colleges/Departments?  Yes  No
  - Can the course be repeated for credit?  Yes  No (if yes, include in course description)
7. Grade Option: Letter (A, B, C ...) Instruction Type: lecture ONLY (Note: Lect/Lab info. must match item 3, above.)
8. If this form involves a change to an existing course, please obtain the following information from the course inventory: Instructional Area / Course Number / Long Course Title  
POLS / 3316 / Quantitative Methods
  - Course ID: 294605 Effective Date (currently active row): 20043
9. Proposed Catalog Description: (If there are no prerequisites, type in "none".)  
Cr: 3. (3-0). Prerequisites: MATH/1310, POLS/1336 and 1337. Description (30 words max.):  
Introduction to statistical analysis of quantitative data in political science. Applied to elections, public policy, business, industry, and economics, facilitating student usage of relevant software for evaluating quantitative data. Satisfies CORE Math/Reasoning requirement.
10. Dean's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 9/30/08  
 Print/Type Name: Sara Fishman

U N I V E R S I T Y of H O U S T O N

CORE CURRICULUM COURSE REQUEST

Originating Department/College: Political Science/CLASS

Person making request: James Thurmond Telephone: 713-743-7622

E-mail: jthurmond@uh.edu

Dean's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I. General Information:

Course number and title: POLS 3316 Statistics for Political Scientists

Please note: This is an existing course – only the title and description have been changed

Catalog description must be included on completed CBM 003 form and attached to this document.

Category of Core for which course is being proposed (mark only one):

- Communication
- Mathematics
- Mathematics/Reasoning (IDO)
- American History
- Government
- Humanities
- Visual/Performing Arts Critical
- Visual/Performing Arts Experiential
- Natural Sciences
- Social/Behavioral Sciences
- Writing in the Disciplines (IDO)

II. Objectives and Evaluation (respond on one or more separate sheets):

Call ext. 3-0919 for a copy of "Guidelines for Requesting and Evaluating Core Courses" or visit the website at [www.uh.edu/academics/corecurriculum](http://www.uh.edu/academics/corecurriculum)

- A. How does the proposed course meet the appropriate Exemplary Educational Objectives (see Guidelines). Attach a syllabus and supporting materials for the objectives the syllabus does not make clear.
- B. Specify the processes and procedures for evaluating course effectiveness in regard to its goals.
- C. Delineate how these evaluation results will be used to improve the course.

SVP. Effective 5/2/08. Replaces all previous forms, which may no longer be used.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

U.S.C.  
10/2/08

Attachment – Core Curriculum Course Request for POLS 3316

**\*Please note that POLS 3316 is an existing course and has not changed.**

- A. How does the proposed course meet the appropriate Exemplary Educational Objectives (see Guidelines)? Attach a syllabus and supporting materials for the objectives the syllabus does not make clear.**

By introducing students to the statistical analysis of political science quantitative data related to elections, public policy, and political actors, and using the latest computer hardware and statistical software, the course will address the EEO's as listed below:

1. To apply structured, sequential thinking to modeling and analyzing real-world problems.
2. To represent and evaluate basic logical, sequential, statistical, and/or mathematical information verbally, numerically, graphically, and/or symbolically.
3. To expand reasoning skills and formal logic to develop convincing logical arguments.
4. To use appropriate technology to enhance structured sequential thinking and understanding and to solve problems and judge the reasonableness of the results.
5. To interpret mathematical or quasi-mathematical models such as formulas, graphs, tables, schematics, or systems of notation, and draw inferences from them.
6. To recognize the limitations of mathematical, statistical, and logical models.

- B. Specify the processes and procedures for evaluating course effectiveness in regard to its goals.**

We review exam results, professor comments, and end-of-semester evaluations to determine course effectiveness.

- C. Delineate how these evaluation results will be used to improve the course.**

We may improve the course by taking one or more actions: 1) modify the course syllabus to include/exclude additional readings; 2) modify the emphasis placed upon particular sub-topics during the semester; and/or 3) change or update the hardware and/or software.

**SYLLABUS FOR QUANTITATIVE METHODS  
POLITICAL SCIENCE 3316**

*Fall 2008*

*MW 11:30 – 1:00pm*

*344-PGH*

*Instructor: Dr. Toshiyuki Yuasa*  
*Office: 312-PGH*  
*E-mail: [toshi@uh.edu](mailto:toshi@uh.edu)*  
*Phone: 713-743-3931*  
*Office Hours: MW: 1:00 to 3:00 (or by appointment)*

*Teaching Assistant: Ching-Hsing Wang*  
*E-mail: [cwang3@mail.uh.edu](mailto:cwang3@mail.uh.edu)*  
*Phone: 713-743-3926*

*Quantitative Methods focuses on the methods by which political scientists, and other areas of social science, establish facts (albeit with probabilistic language) about human behaviors, the nature of human relations, and causes of various social, cultural and economic phenomenon. The objectives of this course are to help students to understand the basic concepts of probability and statistics. Also this course provides students skills to perform applied statistical analyses.*

### **Textbooks**

#### ***Required***

Moore, David, George P. McCabe, and Bruce A. Craig. 2009. Introduction to the Practice of Statistics, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition. New York: W. H. Freeman and Company

**Other required readings are available at the course WebCT site.**

### **Grades and Grading Policy**

Final Grades will be comprised of the following components:

- |                  |                        |
|------------------|------------------------|
| 1. First Exam:   | 15% of the total grade |
| 2. Second Exam:  | 20% of the total grade |
| 3. Final Exam:   | 25% of the total grade |
| 4. Assignments   | 30% of the total grade |
| 5. Participation | 10% of the total grade |

### **Examinations**

There will be three exams during the course of the semester. Exam questions will be based on information covered in the textbooks as well as material presented during class lecture. Expect

short answer, fill in the blank, and math problems on all exams.

Students must provide sufficient justification for missing an exam (it must be a documented emergency) to be entitled to qualify for a makeup exam. It is the responsibility of the student to contact the instructor (by voice mail if necessary) on or before the date of the missed exam in order to arrange for a make-up.

### ***Exam Date (tentative schedule)***

September 24<sup>th</sup>—First Exam (A take home exam due September 29<sup>th</sup>)

October 29<sup>th</sup>—Second Exam (A take home exam due November 3<sup>rd</sup>)

December 3<sup>rd</sup>—Third Exam (A take home exam due December 8<sup>th</sup>)

### **Assignments**

There will be several assignments over the course of the semester. Each assignment involves online quizzes, questions from Moore and McCabe textbook, and data analyses using **CRUNCHIT (this statistical software comes with the textbook CD) or SPSS (SPSS software is available at MD Anderson Library B1 Central Computing Site, Social Science Undergraduate Datalab, Social Science Graduate Datalab)**. For data analyses, a student is using assigned statistical tool(s) and to provide a written report of his or her findings. Both assignment documents and data sets are available from the class WebCT.

**With no exceptions**, assignments must be turned in at the beginning of class on the day they are due. Late homework will not be graded. Those students who miss class (without sufficient justification) on the days in which homework is assigned will not be given an extension to complete that assignment.

## **Schedule of Lectures and the Corresponding Readings**

### **Lecture Series 1: *Looking at Data***

#### **Required Readings**

M,M,&C Chapter 1

Mackenzie, G. Calvin. "The Real Invisible Hand: Presidential Appointees in the Administration of George W. Bush" page 46-53 (download **mackenzie.pdf** from WebCT)

An introduction of SPSS statistical software package

Assignment 1 (download assignment documents and datasets from WebCT; See WebCT for due date)

**Lecture Series 2: *Describing Data and Looking at Data—Relationship***

**Required readings**

M, M & C Chapter 2

Russett, Bruce, Thomas Hartley, and Shoon Murray “The End of the Cold War, Attitude Change, and the Politics of Defense Spending” page 76-85 (download **russett.pdf** from WebCT)

Segal, Jeffrey A. and Albert D. Cover. 1989. “Ideological Values and the Votes of United States Supreme Court Justices. *American Political Science Review* 83 (2, June): 557-565. [frequencies, a simple scatterplot, and bivariate correlations] (download **segal and cover89.pdf** from WebCT)

Assignment 2 (download assignment documents and datasets from WebCT; See WebCT for due date)

**Lecture Series 3: *Producing Data: Design of Experiments, Sampling Design, Toward Statistical Inference, Ethics***

**Required Readings**

M, M & C Chapter 3

Wilber D. 1993. “H. Ross Perot Spurs a Polling Experiment (Unintentionally) Public Perspective (Available in your textbook CD, **E.E.S.E.E** Bibliography Politics, Law & Demography)

Assignment 3 (download assignment documents and datasets from WebCT; See WebCT for due date)

**Lecture Series 4: *Probability and Distributions***

**Required Readings**

M, M & C Chapter 4 and 5 (Section 1 and 2)

Clinton, Joshua D., Simon Jackman, and Doug Rivers “The Most Liberal Senators? Analyzing and Interpreting Congressional Roll Calls” page 104-117 (download **clinton.pdf** from WebCT)

Assignment 4 (download assignment documents and datasets from WebCT; See WebCT for due date)

Assignment 5 (download assignment documents and datasets from WebCT; See WebCT for due date)

**Lecture Series 5: *Statistical Inference***

**Required Readings**

M, M & C Chapter 6, 7, and 8

Jordan, Donald L., and Peter M. Sanchez "Traditional Versus Technology-Aided Instruction: The Effects of Visual Stimulus in the Classroom" page 87-93 (download **jordan.pdf** from WebCT)

Traugott, Michael et al. "How Americans Responded: A Study of Public Reactions to 9/11/01" page 94-103 (download **traugott.pdf** from WebCT)

Assignment 6 (download assignment documents and datasets from WebCT; See WebCT for due date)

Example articles

Simon, Christopher A. . 2002. "Testing for Bias in the Impact of AmeriCorps Service on Volunteer Participants: Evidence of Success in Achieving A Neutrality Program Objective." *Public Administration Review* 62 (Nov/Dec): 670-678. (difference of means)  
**simon2002.pdf**

Wood, Sandra L, Linda Camp Keith, Drew Noble Lanier, and Ayo Ogundele. 1998. "'Acclimation Effects' for Supreme Court Justices: A Cross-Validation, 1888-1940." *American Journal of Political Science* 42: 690-697. (difference of means)

Mutz, Diana C. and Byron Reeves. 2005. "The New Videomalaise: Effects of Televised Incivility on Political Trust." *American Political Science Review* 99 (1, February):1-15. (F-tests and t-tests)

Matland, Richard E. 1994. "Putting Scandinavian Equality to the Test - an Experimental Evaluation of Gender Stereotyping of Political Candidates in a Sample of Norwegian Voters." *British Journal of Political Science* 24: 273-292. (Difference of means tests)  
**matland94.pdf**

Cooper, Christopher A. and Marc Schwerdt. 2001. "Depictions of Public Service in Children's Literature: Revisiting an Understudied Aspect of Political Socialization." *Social*

*Science Quarterly* 82 (3, September): 616-632. (difference of means) cooper and schwerdt01.pdf

### Lecture Series 6: *Topics in Inference for Regression*

#### Required Readings

M, M & C Chapter 10, 11

Mayer, William G. "Forecasting Presidential Nominations, or My Model Worked Just Fine, Thank You" page 189-199 (download **mayer.pdf** from WebCT)

Zaller, John R. "Monica Lewinsky's Contribution to Political Science" page 200-211 (download **zaller.pdf** from WebCT)

Mayer, Jeremy D. and Lee Sigelman "Zog for Albania, Edward for Estonia, and Monarchs for All the Rest? The Royal Road to Prosperity, Democracy, and World Peace" page 212-219 (download **mayersigelman.pdf** from WebCT)

Norris, Pippa. 2000. *Virtuous Circle: Political Communications in Postindustrial Societies*. New York: Cambridge University Press--Chapter 5 (download **norris.pdf** from WebCT)

Hurwitz, Jon and Mark Peffley. 1997. "Public Perceptions of Race and Crime: The Role of Racial Stereotypes." *American Journal of Political Science* 41 (2, April): 375-401. (Bivariate regressions.) **hurwitz97.pdf**

Assignment 7 (download assignment documents and datasets from WebCT)