

University of Central Oklahoma
College of Liberal Arts
Department of Political Science
POL 2013 – Political Science Statistics
Spring Semester 2018; CRN 27546

Instructor: Dr. Kenneth Kickham
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Office Hours: T-Th 11—1 pm

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Final Exam: 1:00—2:50 Thurs. May 3, 2018

Description (from course catalog): A basic introduction into microcomputer-based applications and methodological techniques relevant to political science. No prior knowledge of computing or statistics is required.

Additional information: Political Science Statistics is a foundation for the research required in upper-division political science courses. It requires elementary knowledge of political science. This course requires students to write a research paper incorporating the proper use of statistical techniques specific to political science or public administration, as well as to present them graphically in a way useful to decision-makers. The research paper must be placed within a theoretical context. This course also helps students become good consumers of information, which is especially necessary for making policy decisions that would have a wide ranging impact on citizens.

Required Text

Meier, Kenneth J., Jeffrey L. Brudney and John Bohte. *Applied Statistics for Public and Nonprofit Administration (9th ed.)*. Stamford, CT: Cengage Learning, 2015. ISBN 978-1-285-73723-2.

Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course students will be able to...

- Define a good research question and develop an appropriate research design;
- Apply statistical methods relevant to problems of political science and/or public administration;
- Report analysis-based recommendations to public decision-makers;
- Employ ethical standards in conducting research;
- Assemble literature relevant to social science including the study and implementation of public policy;
- Competently evaluate the work of others who employ statistics.

Course requirements and evaluation:

Research Paper (20% of course grade): The student will conduct individual research into a topic of his or her choosing with the professor's approval. Research papers will flow from hypotheses developed during discussions, and draw from a minimum of five books, scholarly articles, government documents, personal interviews, or other **approved** sources, and incorporate appropriate references. Internet resources can be used, but as with all sources they must be cited properly. The paper will be typed, double-spaced, with one-inch margins on the sides, top, and

bottom. The paper should be written in a consciously chosen and **approved** style (APA, MLA, etc.), while observing the rules of correct spelling and sentence structure. **NUMBER YOUR PAGES!** Papers turned in late will be reduced in grade at the professor's discretion. This research paper should be treated as an exercise in developing analytical and critical skills, and as an opportunity to express research in the form of a reasoned, consistent argument.

Presentation (10% of course grade): Each student will present his or her research to the learning community during the first week of December.

Examinations (45% of course grade): This course will include three exams, each worth 15% of your semester grade.

Homework (25% of course grade): Each chapter includes review questions that gauge the extent to which the material has been mastered. These will be answered in writing, with answers turned in at the beginning of each day's meeting.

The grading scale is as follows:

90-100	=	A
80-89	=	B
70-79	=	C
60-69	=	D
Below 60	=	F

Attendance Policy: Your presence and/or absence is measured with in-class assignments.

Policy for late assignments: Missed work, including exams, cannot be made up except in extremely unusual circumstances, such as the death of a close relative or something equally compelling.

Please note that the Political Science Department is committed to furthering the academic mission, vision, goals, values, and philosophy of the University community as outlined in its Academic Mission/Vision 2009. See: <http://www.uco.edu/academicaffairs/MissionVision2009.pdf>

This course directly incorporates the following **Transformative Learning Goals:**

- **Discipline Knowledge** – of Government/Political Science by a thorough review of the theories and applications of relevant research methods.
- **Leadership** – by examining the leadership styles and challenges faced by scholars and data analysts.
- **Research, Scholarly and Creative Activities** – by requiring the critical analysis of current political, social, and economic issues confronting the American polity, and demonstrating the written ability to integrate course material on essay questions and/or short papers.
- **Service Learning and Civic Engagement Activities** – by acquiring the knowledge to become an informed voter, and the motivation to become an active participant in one's community.
- **Global and Cultural Competencies** – by examining the ways in which the United States government relates to the world, and reacts to global issues, such as the increasingly globalizing economy.

Course Outline:

Please note that the list of assignments is subject to change at the discretion of the facilitator.

Week	Dates	Topic	Chapter	Problems
1	1/9-11	Introductions and needs assessment	1	In class problems
2	1/16-18	Measurement and Design	2 & 3	2.9, 2.10, 2.12 3.2, 3.4, 3.5
3	1/23-25	Frequency Distributions and Contingency Tables	4 & 14	4.1, 4.4, 4.9, 4.10 14.1, 14.3, 14.6, 14.11
4	1/30-2/1	Chi-square and Measures of Association	15	15.1, 15.5, 15.6, 15.12
5	2/6-8	Statistical Control Table Analysis	16	16.2, 16.6, 16.9, 16.11
6	2/13-15	Review and First Exam		Paper Topics Due
7	2/20-22	Measures of Central Tendency	5	5.3, 5.11, 5.13, 5.15
8	2/27-3/1	Measures of Dispersion	6	6.5, 6.9, 6.11, 6.13
9	3/6-8	The Normal Probability Distribution	7	7.5, 7.7, 7.9, 7.11
10	3/13-15	Review and Second Exam		Methods Plan Due
11	3/20-22	SPRING BREAK		
12	3/27-29	Inference and Hypothesis Testing	10 & 11	10.1, 10.3, 10.5, 10.13 11.9, 11.11, 11.13, 11.15
13	4/3-5	Difference of Proportions and Difference of Means	12 & 13	12.3, 12.11, 12.12, 12.15 13.11, 13.13, 13.19, 13.21
14	4/10-12	Simple (Bivariate) Regression: OLS Analysis	17	17.11, 17.13, 17.15, 17.17
15	4/17-19	Multiple Regression	20	20.1, 20.3, 20.5, 20.7
16	4/24-26	Presentations		Papers Due
17	5/3	Final Exam		

For the UCO Student Information Sheet and Syllabus Attachment, visit the following URL:
<http://www.uco.edu/academic-affairs/files/aa-forms/StudentInfoSheet.pdf>