POS 6746—Fall, 2011 Quantitative Methods in Political Research

Wed, 6:00-8:50

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Office Hours: M, W 1:30-4:00 P.M., or by appointment

Introduction

The purpose of this seminar is to introduce you to linear regression with a focus on its statistical properties and application using Stata and R.

Required Text

Wooldridge, Jeffrey M. 2006. *Introductory Econometrics.* 3rd ed. Mason: Thomson Higher Education.

Recommended Text

Baum, Christopher F. 2006. *An Introduction to Modern Econometrics Using Stata.* College Station: Stata Press.

Faraway, Julian J. 2004. *Linear Models with R.* Chapman & Hall

Examinations and Homework

In-Class Exams

There will be 2 in-class exams for this seminar, including the final exam. I will provide further details when we approach the first exam.

Homework

There is no formal homework assignment, but I strongly encourage you to do the suggested problems in the back of the chapters. Your student solution manual provides answers to some of the problems and you can choose to focus on them. We will discuss some of the problems in class.

In-Class Presentation

You are required to find one article in your area of study that uses the methods from the book and present the paper to the class. Each presentation takes about 15 minutes. Ideally, you may want to replicate the study yourself, which is the best way to learn how to do empirical study in political science.

Academic Dishonesty

Students who plagiarize or cheat will receive an "F." A clear definition of academic dishonesty and university procedures for responding to such misconduct can be found in the Golden Rule (see http://www.osc.sdes.ucf.edu/).

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy Statement

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Student Resource Center Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

Copyright

The handouts used in this course are copyrighted. By "handouts," I mean all materials generated for this class, which include but are not limited to syllabi, power-point, quizzes, exams, lab problems, in-class materials review sheets, and additional problem sets. Because these are copyrighted, you do not have the right to copy or distribute the handouts, unless I expressly grant permission.

Grading Criteria

Your final course grade will consist of two components:

First Exam	40%
Second Exam	60%

Letter grades assigned at final time will reflect the following numeric grades:

Numerical Grade	*University Standard*	*Letter Grade*
89.5-100	Excellent	A
79.5-89.4	Good	B
69.5-79.4	Satisfactory	C
59.5-69.4	Passing	D
Below 59.4	Failing	F

Calculation of the final course grade will use the following procedure:

Grade of first exam	*x .40* =	weighted grade
Grade of second exam	*x .60* =	weighted grade
Final Course Grade	=	total of weighted grades

Disclaimer

This syllabus is subject to change at the instructor's discretion when necessary.

Reading and Assignment Schedule

I expect reading assignments to be completed before the class in which they will be discussed.

Week 1

Mathematical foundation, Wooldridge, Appendix A, B, C, and D

Week 2

Chapter 1 and 2

Week 3

Chapter 3 and 4

Week 4

Homework Discussion

Week 5

Chapter 5, 6, and 7

Week 6

Chapter 8 and 9

Week 7

Homework Discussion

Week 8

Mid-term

Week 9

Chapter 15 and 16

Week 10

Chapter 17

Week 11

Homework Discussion and Paper Presentation

Week 12

Chapter 13 and 14

Week 13

Homework Discussion and Paper Presentation

Week 14

Chapter 10 and 11

Week 15

Chapter 12 and 18
Homework Discussion and Paper Presentation

Final

University Schedule