POS 6746: QUANTITATIVE METHODS IN POLITICAL RESEARCH
Kinsey/Fall 2012
Wedn 6:00-8:50 pm, BA 115

Office: ***Cocoa***: Suite 222; Room 225
Orlando: Phillips Hall 311H
Phone: (321) 433 -7962 (Cocoa); (407) 823-2608 (Orlando)
Email: barbara.kinsey@ucf.edu
Office Hours: ***Cocoa***: Tuesday 3:00-5:00 PM;
Orlando: Monday 10:00 AM-Noon & Wednesday 3:00-5:00 PM;
or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course places emphasis on the logic of research design and data analysis. Students learn techniques of quantitative analysis, analyze political datasets using statistical software, and develop skills to become practitioners of quantitative methodology and interpret and evaluate quantitative work.

TEXTS AND READINGS:

Philip H. Pollock III. 2012. *The Essentials of Political Analysis*. 4th Edition. Washington D.C.: CQ Press

Philip H. Pollock III. 2012. *A STATA Companion to Political Analysis*. 2nd Edition. Washington D.C.: CQ Press

Hoover, Kenneth and Todd Donovan. 2010. *The Elements of Social Scientific Thinking*. 10th Edition. Thomson.

Additional readings will be distributed to students.

SOFTWARE:

We will be using STATA in this course. I assume that you have no prior experience with this software. Laboratory sessions will introduce students to the software and provide time to address questions related to lectures and assignments.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

Course grades are determined by

a) Regular assignments (30%) to be distributed in class. You will have a week to complete each assignment.
b) Two in-class exams (40%)
c) Research design (30%) You will identify a research question that interests you and proceed to design a plan to investigate it. A design includes a discussion of the methodology that would enable you to control for alternative explanations and the kinds of information you would use to explore a research question. Also, you will consider what problems you may encounter in conducting your research and potential limitations. I suggest you pick a subject that is manageable. **This paper is due on Wednesday, December 5.**

Assignments are to be turned on the day of class by 6 PM. Except for cases involving overriding and well documented personal reasons, late work will not be accepted.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must be registered with Student Disability Services, Student Resource Center Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371 TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116.

Please note that no laptops (or substitutes) will be used in class.

If there is anything in the syllabus that is unclear, it is up to the student to contact the professor for clarification. Also, it is the student's responsibility to be informed of any announcements made in class.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Note: This schedule is subject to change depending on the needs of the class. Students are responsible for any changes in syllabus/schedule which are announced in class.

Week	**Topics Covered:**	**Assignments:**
August 22	Introduction to Course	Hoover & Donovan, Chapter 1
August 29	Elements of Research	Hoover & Donovan, Chapters 2, 3, & 6
September 5	Research Design	*Essentials*: Chapter 4 *Stata Companion*: Chapter 1

September 12	Concepts & Measurement	*Essentials*: Chapters 1 Chapter 2, pp. 28-32 *Stata Companion*: Chapter 3 Hoover & Donovan, Chapter 5
September 19	Sampling	*Essentials*: Chapter 6, pp. 122-128
September 26	Description of Data	*Essentials*: Chapter 2, pp. 32-44; Chapter 6, pp. 128-133 *Stata Companion*: Chapter 2
October 3	Inference	*Essentials:* Chapter 6, pp. 133-151
October 10	Hypothesis Testing Error Types	*Essentials*: Chapter 3, pp. 48-58; Chapter 7, pp. 155-164 *Stata Companion*: Chapter 6 Hoover & Donovan, Chapter 4
October 17	***First Exam***	
October 24	Bivariate Relationships	*Essentials*: Chapter 3, pp. 58-63 Chapter 7, pp. 164-169 *Stata Companion*: Chapters 4 & 7
October 31	Making Controlled Comparisons	*Essentials*: Chapter 5 *Stata Companion*: Chapter 5
November 7	Correlation & Regression	*Essentials*: Chapter 8, pp. 182-199 *Stata Companion*: Chapter 8
November 14	Multivariate Regression	*Essentials*: Chapter 8, pp. 199-206 *Stata Companion*: Chapter 9

November 21	***No class***	
November 28	Logistic Regression	*Essentials*: Chapter 9 *Stata Companion*: Chapter 10
December 5	***Paper Due*** ***Second Exam***	

JOURNAL ARTICLES TBA

Alford John R., Carolyn L. Funk, and John R. Hibbing, "Are Political Orientations Genetically Transmitted?" *American Political Science Review* 99 (2): 153-167.

Angrist, Michele. 2012. War, Resisting the West, and Women's Labor: Toward an Understanding of Arab Exceptionalism. *Politics & Gender* 8(1): 51-82

Biddle, Stephen and Stephen Long. 2004. "Democracy and Military Effectiveness: A Deeper Look." *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* 48 (4):525-546.

Chin, Michelle L. and Jon R. Bond, and Nehemia Geva. 2000. "A Foot in the Door: An Experimental Study of PAC and Constituency Effects on Access." *Journal of Politics* 62 (2): 534-549

Gerber, Alan S., Donald P. Green, and Christopher W. Larimer, "Social Pressure and Voter Turnout: Evidence from a Large-Scale Field Experiment." *American Political Science Review* 102, 1 (February 2008): 33-48.

Giles, Micheal W., Bethany Blackstone and Richard L. Vining Jr. 2008. "The Supreme Court in American Democracy: Unraveling the Linkages between Public Opinion and Judicial Decision Making." *The Journal of Politics*, 70(2): 293-306.

Keefer, Philip. 2007. "Clientilism, Credibility, and the Policy Choices of Young Democracies." *American Journal of Political Science* 51(4): 804-821

Nadeau, Richard et al, "Class, Party, and South/Non-South Differences." *American Politics Research* 32 (1): 52-67.

Niven, David. 2004. "The Mobilization Solution? Face-to-Face Contact and Voter Turnout in a Municipal Election." *The Journal of Politics* 66 (3): 868-884.

Schafer, Mark and Scott Chrichlow. 2002. “The Process-Outcome Connection in Foreign Policy Decision Making: A Quantitative Study Building on Groupthink.” *International Studies Quarterly* 46(1): 45-68.

Solt, Frederick. 2004. “Civics or Structure? Revisiting the Origins of Democratic Quality in the Italian Regions.” *British Journal of Political Science* 34 (1): 123-135.

Squire, Perevill “Why the 1936 Literary Digest Poll Failed.” *Public Opinion Quarterly* 52(1): 125-133.

Tesler, Michael. 2012. “The Spillover of Racialization into Health Care: How President Obama Polarized Public Opinion by Racial Attitudes and Race.” *American Journal of Political Science* 56 (3): 690-704.