Quantitative Methods (POS6746.0001)
Pollock / Spring 2014

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Office hours	TTh 8-8:50 a.m. / 12:00 noon-3:00 p.m. / T: 5-5:50
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Required:	Pollock, *The Essentials of Political Analysis*, 4th edition Pollock, *An R Companion to Political Analysis*
Strongly recommended:	If you do not own a laptop, acquire one and bring it to class

Purpose.
In this course, you will learn intermediate and advanced methods of measurement, research design, and data analysis. You are probably completely unfamiliar with *R*, an open source statistical analysis package. However, in this course you will become an advanced user. Your goals: become a sophisticated consumer of political science research; develop the skills you need to contribute to the scholarly literature; use your research and data analysis skills to ***produce a research paper of publishable quality on a topic of interest to you***.

Requirements.
I. (60 percent of course grade.) The course has three parts: Concepts and measurement, descriptive statistics and bivariate data analysis, and multivariate methods. Accordingly, you will develop your research paper in ***three cumulatively written parts***. (1) Research question / literature review / hypotheses; (2) Part 1 (revised) plus: Description of variables / bivariate analyses; (3) Parts (1) and (2) plus: Controlled comparisons / multiple regression / logistic regression / conclusions and implications. (For a more complete breakdown, see the *R Companion*, pp. 177-178.) Paper due dates: ***February 4, March18, and April 29***. On each of these dates, come prepared to briefly discuss your paper. Overall paper length: ***6,000-8,500 words*** (approximately 25-35 double-spaced pages).

II. (10 percent). You will ***present your research to the class***, using Power Point (or an open source alternative), on April 29.

III. (10 percent). You will ***attend every class***. You will ***contribute to class discussion***.

IV. (20 percent). You will complete and ***turn in weekly assignments***.

Date and Topic:	*Reading:* ∞
Jan7 / Jan14 Concepts and measurement	*Essentials*, Introduction, Chap 1, Chap 10 Michael P. McDonald and Samuel L. Popkin, "The Myth of the Vanishing Voter," *American Political Science Review* 95, 4 (Dec 2001): 963-974. W. S. Robinson, "Ecological Correlations and the Behavior of Individuals," *American Sociological Review* 15, 3 (June 1950): 351-357.
Jan21 Descriptive statistics	*Essentials*, Chap 2 *R Companion*, Chaps 1-2 Gary C. Jacobson, "The Marginals Never Vanished," *American Journal of Political Science* 31, 1 (Feb 1987): 126-141. Hyde, et al., "Gender Similarities Characterize Math Performance," *Science* 321 (July 25 2008): 494-495.

Jan28 Constructing measures and Framing hypotheses	*R Companion*, Chap 3 *Essentials*, Chap 3: 48-58 Michael X. Delli Carpini and Scott Keeter, "Measuring Political Knowledge: Putting First Things First," *American Journal of Political Science* 37, 4 (Nov 1993): 1179-1206. Timur Kuran, "The Inevitability of Future Revolutionary Surprises," *American Journal of Sociology* 100, 6 (1995): 1528–51. Gordon B. Dahl and Enrico Moretti, "The Demand for Sons," *Review of Economic Studies* (2008) 75, 1085–1120.
Feb4 Bivariate analyses **Paper: part 1 due**	*Essentials*, Chap 3: 58-77 *R Companion*, Chap 4
Feb11 Research design	*Essentials*, Chap 4 Gary Taubes, "Do We Really Know What Makes Us Healthy?" *New York Times*, September 16, 2007. Alan S. Gerber, 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. Michelle L. Chin, Jon R. Bond, and Nehemia Geva, "A Foot in the Door: An Experimental Study of PAC and Constituency Effects on Access," *Journal of Politics* 62, 2 (May 2000): 534-549.
Feb18 Making controlled comparisons	*Essentials*, Chap 5 *R Companion*, Chap 5 John R. Alford, Carolyn L. Funk, and John R. Hibbing, "Are Political Orientations Genetically Transmitted?" *American Political Science Review* 99, 2 (May 2005): 153-167.
Feb25 Statistical inference {*Mar4*: *Break*}	*Essentials*, Chap 6 *R Companion*, Chap 6, pp. 81-85 Peverill Squire, "Why the 1936 Literary Digest Poll Failed," *Public Opinion Quarterly* 52, 1 (Spring 1988): 125-133.
Mar11 Statistical significance	*Essentials*, Chap 7, pp. 155-164 *R Companion*, Chap 6, pp. 85-90; Chap 7 Stephen T. Ziliak and Deirdre N. McCloskey, "The Cult of Statistical Significance," presented at the Joint Statistical Meetings, Washington, DC, August 3, 2009, in a contributed session of the Section on Statistical Education.

Mar18 Measures of association **Paper: Part 1 (revised) plus Part 2 due**	*Essentials*, Chap 7, pp. 164-181 James L. Payne, "Career Intentions and Electoral Performance of Members of the U.S. House," *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 7, 1 (Feb 1982): 93-99.
Mar25, Apr1 Correlation and linear regression	*Essentials*, Chap 8, pp. 182-196 *R Companion*, Chap 8 Alan Abramowitz, "Forecasting in a Polarized Era: The Time for Change Model and the 2012 Presidential Election," *PS*, October 2012: 618-619. Gary C. Jacobson, "The Effect of the AFL-CIO's 'Voter Education' Campaigns on the 1996 House Elections," *Journal of Politics* 61, 1 (Feb 1999): 185-194.
Apr8 Interaction effects and Nonlinear specifications	*Essentials*, Chap 8, pp. 196-211 *R Companion*, Chap 9 Philip H. Pollock III, "Issues, Values, and Critical Moments: Did 'Magic' Johnson Transform Public Opinion on AIDS?" *American Journal of Political Science* (May 1994): 426-446. Richard Nadeau, Richard G. Niemi, and Jeffrey Levine, "Innumeracy About Minority Populations," *Public Opinion Quarterly* 57, 3 (Autumn 1993): 332-347. Edward R. Tufte, "The Relationship between Seats and Votes in Two-Party Systems," *American Political Science Review* 67, 2 (June 1973): 540-554.
Apr15 Logistic regression	*Essentials*, Chap 9 *R Companion*, Chap 10 Barry C. Burden and Steven Greene, "Party Attachments and State Election Laws," *Political Research Quarterly* 53, 1 (March 2000): 63-76. Richard Nadeau, et al, "Class, Party, and South/Non-South Differences," *American Politics Research* 32, 1 (Jan 2004): 52-67.
Apr29 (6-10 PM)	**Paper presentations** **Final paper due: Part 1 plus Part 2 (revised) plus Part 3**

∞Additional reading may be assigned at instructor discretion.