

POLITICAL SCIENCE 3:
INTRODUCTION TO EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS AND QUANTITATIVE METHODS

Summer 2016

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Office Hours: Thursday 12-2 pm in 783 Barrows

Content: This course covers the basics of research methodology. We will discuss game theory, historical narratives, causality, and statistical inference. The main goal of the course is to improve students' ability to evaluate and conduct research in political science. There are no prerequisites.

Requirements: Students should attend all lectures and sections, as well as complete the assigned readings before every class. There will also be short homework activities after every class, along with a midterm and final exam.

Access to Readings: All readings are available for free if you are on the UC Berkeley network. If you are off-campus, follow the directions on this site to connect to the network: <http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/using-the-libraries/proxy-server>.

Absences: Grades will be docked for missing section, but absences for religious or extracurricular activities may be excused if they meet the guidelines from the Academic Senate and the Registrar's Office. Please inform me immediately if you cannot attend class on either of the exam days.

Accommodations: Please let me know if you need any accommodations that have been approved by DSP.

Grading Policy: Participation (10%), Homework (40%), Midterm (20%), Final (30%).

Important Dates:

Midterm Exam June 14, 2015
Final Exam June 30, 2015

Other Policies: Computers, cell phones, and other electronic devices are not permitted during class.

Course Outline:

May 23: Introduction

May 24: Principles of Game Theory

1. Martin J. Osborne. 2002. *An Introduction to Game Theory*. 1.1-1.3 and 2.1-2.6

May 25: Game Theory in American Politics

1. S.M. 2012. "Is It Irrational to Vote?" *The Economist*.
2. Alecia M. Spooner. 2012. "Ten Real-Life Examples of the Tragedy of the Commons." *Environmental Science For Dummies*.

3. John Danaher. 2011. "The Median Voter Theorem." *Philosophical Disquisitions*. May 9.

May 26: Game Theory in International Relations

1. David Gibbon. 1995. "Uses of Game Theory in International Relations." *Economic Theory of Networks at Temple University*.
2. Dr. Strangelove. Clip.
3. Dan Reiter. 2003. "Exploring the Bargaining Model of War." *Perspectives on Politics* 1: 27-43.

May 31: Historical Theories

1. Steven Cromack. 1999. "Was There A Schlieffen Plan?" *The Historical Society Blog*. 16 May 2012.
2. Ben Bowlin. "Phantom Time." *How Stuff Works*. 16 November 2010.

June 1: Causality

1. David D. Yang. 2003. "Empirical Social Inquiry and Models of Causal Inference." *Society for Political Methodology Annual Conference*.

June 2: Causal Case Studies

1. Henry Brady. 2004. "Data Set Observations versus Causal-Process Observations." in *Rethinking Social Inquiry: Diverse Tools, Shared Standards*: 267-272.
2. Ward Wilson. 2013. "The Bomb Didn't Beat Japan... Stalin Did." *Foreign Policy*: May 30.

June 6: Randomization Inference

1. David A. Freedman. 2004. "Sampling." in *Encyclopedia of Social Science Research Methods*. Sage Publications Vol. 3, 986990. M. Lewis-Beck, A. Bryman, and T. F. Liao, eds.

June 7: Experiments I

1. Alan S. Gerber, Donald P. Green, and Christopher W. Larimer. 2008. "How Social Pressure Increases Voter Turnout: Evidence From A Large-scale Field Experiment." *Science*.
2. Gary King, Jennifer Pan, and Margaret E. Roberts. 2014. "Study of Internet Censorship Reveals the Deepest Fear of China's Government." *Science*.
3. David E. Broockman and Joshua L. Kalla. 2014. "A New Experiment Shows How Money Buys Access to Congress." *Washington Post*. March 11.

June 8: Experiments II

1. James Igoe Walsh. 2012. "Do Drones Change Americans? Views on the Use of Force." *The Monkey Cage*. August 28.

2. Lee Drutman. 2008. "Why the American Flag Inspires Superiority Not Patriotism." *Alternet*. December 18.

June 9: Natural Experiments

1. Robert Erikson and Laura Stoker. 2011. "The Lasting Effects of the Vietnam Draft Lottery." *The Monkey Cage*.
2. Andrew Bertoli. 2014. "World Cup Participation Increases State Aggression." *Washington Post*.

June 13: Review

June 14: Midterm

June 15: Matching

1. Joshua Wu. 2016. "The Myth of the Evangelical Voter." *Emerging Scholars Blog*. February 15.
2. Justin Esarey. 2012. "'Causal Inference' Models and Endogeneity: The Case of Matching." *Political Methodology*. Dec 7.

June 16: Time Series and Panel Data

1. Oliver Roeder. 2015. "The Prisoner's Dilemma." *FiveThirtyEight*. February 12.
2. Nate Silver. 2016. "Past Terrorist Attacks Helped Trump Capitalize On Anti-Muslim Sentiment." *FiveThirtyEight*. March 22.

June 20: Predictive Regression

1. Jim Frost. 2013. "How to Interpret Regression Analysis Results: P-values and Coefficients." *The Minitab Blog*. July 1.
2. David A. Freedman. 1995. "Some Issues in the Foundations of Statistics." *Foundations of Science* 1: **12-16**.
3. Jim Frost. 2013. "Regression Analysis: How to Interpret the Constant (Y Intercept)." *The Minitab Blog*. July 11.

June 21: Regression and Causality

1. "Ten Things to Know About Reading A Regression Table." *Evidence of Governance in Politics*.
2. Matthew MacWilliams. 2016. "The One Weird Trait That Predicts Whether You're a Trump Supporter." *Politico Magazine*. January 17.

June 22: Conceptualization and Measurement

1. Ezra Klein. 2015. "No One's Less Moderate Than Moderates." *Vox*. February 26.
2. David Broockman. 2016. "How Well-Meaning Political Reformers Are Helping to Elect President Trump." *Vox*. March 7.

June 23: Reproduction and Replication

1. John Oliver. "Scientific Studies." *Last Week Tonight with John Oliver*. May 8.
2. Michael J. LaCour and Donald P. Green. 2014. "When Contact Changes Minds: An Experiment on Transmission of Support for Gay Equality." *Science* (retracted).
3. Jesse Singal. 2015. "The Case of the Amazing Gay-Marriage Data: How a Graduate Student Reluctantly Uncovered a Huge Scientific Fraud." *New York Magazine*.
4. David Broockman and Joshua Kalla. 2015. "We Discovered One of Social Science's Biggest Frauds. Here's What We Learned." *Vox*.

June 27: Paradigms

1. Stephen Walt. 1998. "International Relations: One World, Many Theories." *Foreign Policy*: 29-46.

June 28: Scientific Revolutions

1. Neil deGrasse Tyson. 2012. "The Mysterious Orbit of Mercury." *The Great Courses*.
2. Neil deGrasse Tyson. 2012. "Relativity and the Twin Paradox." *The Great Courses*.

June 29: Final Review**June 30: Final**