Andrew Scott Waugh
7/2/12

POLITICAL SCIENCE 30: **POLITICAL INQUIRY**
COURSE SYLLABUS

WELCOME to Political Science 30: Political Inquiry! In this course we have three basic objectives. First, we will learn the fundamentals of theory building, research design, and hypothesis testing. Second, we will learn to understand and critique quantitative social science research. Third, we will learn how to design and conduct our own quantitative social science research projects. In the process we will develop a new conceptual vocabulary and acquire basic skills in statistical computing.

I am excited to be here this summer working with you and I look forward to helping you progress. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Instructor:

Andrew Waugh — *email:* aswaugh@ucsd.edu — *office:* SSB 445
aim: aswaughucsd — *hours:* W 2:30-3:30 (or by appt.)
gchat: a.s.waugh

Teaching Assistant:

Rumman Chowdhury — *email:* ruchowdhury@ucsd.edu — *office:* SSB 341

Website: http://www.andrewwaugh.com/courses/poli30

The course website will be updated frequently and will contain the syllabus, homework assignments, additional readings, data, announcements, and helpful links. Try to check it once a week (preferably after class on Wednesdays) to make sure you haven't missed any information.

Books and Readings:

This course has two required books, both of which are available now in the bookstore:

1. Kellstedt, Paul M. and Whitten, Guy D. 2009. *The Fundamentals of Political Science Research.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

2. Dalgaard, Peter. 2008. *Introductory Statistics with R, 2nd Edition*. New York: Springer.

There will be additional readings made available via the course website and announced in class. All readings are mandatory, and all assigned material may be covered on tests.

Computer Software

In this course, you will learn to analyze quantitative data using computer software. We will be using a piece of software called *R*, which is available for free in both Mac and Windows versions. You can find the latest versions here: http://cran.r-project.org/.

ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

- Participation (10% of Grade) – Participation in class is essential to effective learning and processing of course materials. You will understand the material better and remember it more easily on exams if you are active in class, attend office hours, ask questions via e-mail, and generally take an active role in your learning.

- Homework (40% of Grade) – There will be four (4) homework assignments worth a total of 40% of your grade. Homework will cover information from both textbooks as well as the lectures. Homework assignments will be distributed each Monday and will be due the following Monday.

- Final Examination (50% of Grade) – There will be a final exam on Friday, August 3rd. It will cover material and concepts from all assigned readings, all lectures, and all homework assignments.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Below is a list of class meetings with a partial list of readings. Readings may be changed or added as necessary. Announcements will be made in class and on the course website.

7/2	**Welcome. Overview of Course. Introduction to Political Inquiry. Introduction to R.** • Kellstedt & Whitten (2009) – Chapters 1 and 2. • Dalgaard (2008) – Chapters 1 and 2 ○ Download and install R. Do some of the exercises to get familiar with the program.
7/4	NO CLASS - Independence Day
7/9	**Theory Building. Causality.** • Kellstedt & Whitten (2009) – Chapter 3 • HOMEWORK #1 DUE
7/11	**Research Design. Measurement.** • Kellstedt & Whitten (2009) – Chapters 4 and 5
7/16	**Descriptive Statistics.** • Kellstedt & Whitten (2009) – Chapter 6 • Dalgaard (2008) – Chapters 3 and 4 • HOMEWORK #2 DUE
7/18	**Hypothesis Testing.** • Kellstedt & Whitten (2009) – Chapters 7 and 8 • Dalgaard (2008) – Chapter 5
7/23	**Bivariate Regression.** • Kellstedt & Whitten (2009) – Chapter 9 • Dalgaard (2008) – Chapter 6 • HOMEWORK #3 DUE
7/25	**Multiple Regression I.** • Kellstedt & Whitten (2009) – Chapter 10 • Dalgaard (2008) – Chapters 11 and 12
7/30	**Multiple Regression II.** • Kellstedt & Whitten (2009) – Chapter 11 • Dalgaard (2008) – Chapter 13 • HOMEWORK #4 DUE
8/1	**Applications and Examples. Special Topics. Review of Course.** • Kellstedt & Whitten (2009) – Chapter 12
8/3	FINAL EXAM

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT

Integrity of scholarship is essential for an academic community. The University expects that both faculty and students will honor this principle and in so doing protect the validity of University intellectual work. For students, this means that all academic work will be done by the individual to whom it is assigned, without unauthorized aid of any kind.