This course introduces the tools of political inquiry, including research design, causal inference, and basic statistical methods. These tools are essential for assessing the validity of others' studies and for conducting your own research.

The readings combine textbook explanations of the methods with examples of how they are put into practice. Through a set of homework assignments, you will be asked to conduct your own analysis of a question of your choosing, using a dataset that we will provide. In order to work with the data, you will learn how to operate a statistics program (STATA). The primary goals of the course are:

1. To provide you with analytic tools that will help you understand how political scientists do research.
2. To improve your ability to pose and answer research questions on your own.

Textbooks
The following are required and may be purchased online or at the bookstore:

- Galderisi, Peter. Understanding Political Science Statistics.
- Seljan, Ellen and Galderisi, Peter. Understanding Political Science Statistics Using Stata

The other reading assignments are posted on the TritonED course website. The course website will also include information on lectures, assignments, etc.

Course Assignments

- 40% Four Homework Projects (10% each). Due on the following dates:
  - HW1: Oct 29
  - HW2: Nov 14
  - HW3: Nov 28
  - HW4: Dec 5
- 30% Final Exam (Tuesday, December 11, 11:30am-2:29pm)
- 20% Midterm Exam (Monday, November 5th, in class)
- 10% Section Attendance and Participation

Academic Integrity: Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. Cheating, plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will be subject to disciplinary action consistent with University rules and regulations. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with University regulations regarding plagiarism and academic dishonesty.
**Sections:** The course will include two weekly lectures and one discussion section. Please complete all readings and be prepared to discuss them in section each week. Students are responsible for both the information presented in class and in the readings, so please attend regularly. **In Week 4 (October 24-26), your sections will meet in Sequoyah Hall 142.**

**Exams:** There will be an in-class midterm on Monday, November 5th, as well as a final exam on Tuesday, December 11th. The final will be comprehensive, but will feature topics from the second half of the course more prominently. All exams will be closed book, and composed of short answers, identifications, true-false, math problems, and essays. Since the emphasis of statistical questions will be on understanding and interpretation, calculators will not be permitted (or needed).

**Grade Changes and Extensions:** All requests for grade changes must be made formally to your TA, **within one week** of getting back your assignment or test. Requests must be typed and double spaced, and review of a grade may result in either a higher or lower grade. Extensions on assignments and make-up exams will only be granted in cases of documented illness or family medical emergencies. I will require documentation for everyone. Please contact your teaching assistant as soon as possible if you need to request one. We will return your assignments in a timely fashion in section, and you are responsible for picking them up in section to confirm that we did in fact receive and grade them. Due to university policy, no grade changes may be requested on the final except in cases of our clerical error. (Note: We will not grant any extensions because stolen or damaged computers. This does happen, so you should be in the habit of using the Dropbox or another free cloud service to back up all of your work automatically so that you never lose it).

**Assignments:** Each student will be required to turn in four homework assignments on the announced dates. The assignments will be a combination of problem sets and portions of a research project based on the analysis of a dataset. You must select one of the provided political science data sets to work on in the first assignment, and the last assignment will consist of your 3-5 page report. The report will be graded on both substance and style. Each student must do his or her own exercises alone, subject to university regulations prohibiting plagiarism and cheating.

**Late Assignments:** Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the day indicated. If you turn it in on the due date (i.e., before midnight), but after class, you will be penalized with minus 10 percent. If you turn it the day after the assignment it will minus 20 percent. Nothing will be accepted after that.

**Extra Credit.** You may earn 1 point towards your course grade by participating in the Omnibus Political Science Survey (OPSS). You will be contacted by email during the term with information regarding the survey and how you can complete it.

As an alternative to participating in the survey, you can read and write a 1-2 page response to an article of the instructor’s choosing.

**Announcements.** I do not allow students to make announcements in class. I also do not allow groups (campaigns or others) outside of the department to make announcements in class.
Reading Assignments

Part I. Exploring Causal Hypotheses

1. Monday, October 1. Introduction
   a. No reading assigned.

   a. Of Observations and Expectations, Chapter 1.


Wednesday, October 10. NO CLASS MEETING


5. Wednesday, October 17. Quasi-experiments: Good Enough for Social Science.

Part II. Describing and Collecting Data

   a. Of Observations and Expectations, Chapter 2

   a. Of Observations and Expectations, Chapter 3 and Last part of chapter 4 (pp 89-98)
   b. STATA Manual, 20-69

NOTE: Section meetings Oct 24-26 2 will be held in Sequoyah Hall 142

8. Monday, October 29. Drawing a Sample.


d. HW1 Due at beginning of lecture

**Part III. Testing Causal Hypotheses**


10. Monday, November 5. Midterm (For Lectures 2-8), in class.

11. Wednesday, November 7. Inference and Hypothesis Testing
   b. *STATA Manual*, pages 70-80

Monday, November 12. NO CLASS (Veterans Day)

   b. Wolfinger and Rosenstone, Chapter 2 of *Who Votes?* Yale University Press, 1980, especially Tables 2.4, 2.5, and 2.6.
   d. HW2 Due at beginning of lecture


Wednesday, November 21. NO CLASS (THANKSGIVING)


15. Wednesday, November 28. Linear Regression I: Scatterplots and Regression Lines.
   b. HW3 Due at beginning of lecture


17. Wednesday, December 5. Regression III: Dummy variables and Interaction Terms
   a. Reading TBA
   b. HW4 Due at beginning of lecture