POLI 30D: POLITICAL INQUIRY

Course Syllabus

Course Logistics

Instructor: Anthony Anderson
Office: SSB 320
Email: ama004@ucsd.edu
Office Hours: Wednesday 1:00pm - 4:00pm or by appointment
Note: I occasionally will hold bonus office hours (SSB 320 or Zoom) around exams/assignments so please keep an eye on Canvas announcements!
Lectures: Mondays and Wednesdays, 11:00 AM - 11:50 AM (Center Hall 115)

UCSD Learning Management System: https://canvas.ucsd.edu

Teaching Assistants:

Teaching Assistant	Sections	Email	Office Hours
Yeilim Cheong	HHS 1305 W 1:00pm & 2:00pm	yecheong@ucsd.edu	Monday 3:30 - 5:30pm SSB 347
Sam Williams	WLH 2110 Th 4:00pm & 5:00pm	sdwillia@ucsd.edu	Thursday 1:30 - 3:30pm SSB 347
Zayne Sember	CENTR 205 F 12:00pm & 1:00pm	zsember@ucsd.edu	Friday 3:00 - 5:00pm SSB 327

Course Description

Renowned poet Dante Alighieri best summed up how many students feel about UCSD's Political Science 30D: Political Inquiry course with his immortal warning, "abandon all hope ye who enter here." Many students are nervous about the mathematical nature of this class as well as the use of statistical software to solve applied problem sets. But does this course deserve its dreaded, scary, and infernal reputation? Allow me to ask you a handful of questions: Are you able to do basic addition? Basic subtraction? Basic division? Can you solve 10 divided by 2? Have you ever navigated a settings menu in Microsoft Excel, Facebook, or Instagram? If you answered *yes* to all or most of these questions, you have the prerequisite skills to do well at this class.

Roughly half the class will involve no math whatsoever and focuses on how do we ask good questions to learn more about the world or how we go about finding information that allows us to answer such questions. The other half involves two methodological aspects. You'll receive some statistical training that involves basic algebra to solve. The

actual mechanical calculations of statistics are only a small part of statistical training. Most of statistics is understanding *why* your either using addition or subtraction, interpreting what your statistics mean in light of the real world, and convincing your audience whether your statistical findings are interesting or not. These skills involve no extensive mathematical ability. Second, you'll use SPSS to solve many problems for you. I assume the vast majority of you have no coding experience and seeing the phrase statistical software might be intimidating. The good news is no coding is actually required in this class. While SPSS does have options to insert code, we will teach you to use drop-down menus (much like navigating a settings menu). You'll want to generally understand what SPSS is doing as you click through the steps and be able to read the final output, which again does not require any coding background.

At a fundamental level, this course explores the *science* in political *science*. This course hopes to be a thorough introduction to many of the ideas and methodological tools available when conducting research. It's unfortunate that this class has such a dreaded reputation as in many ways it is the foundation of the discipline. All the information we know in American politics, international relations, and comparative politics relied on some level of observation, theory, and research designs to discover. This course hopes to illuminate how we go about understanding the political world.

Course Expectations

This class still hopes to offer a challenge as it often looks at problems in a different way than to how many are accustomed, but it is not meant to be an impossible hurdle. This class covers a lot of material at a brisk pace and we expect your engagement. Our promise to you is to be as available to you as possible and always do our best to explain why we take every step we do when conducting research or when calculating a statistic. Our main ask of you is to communicate your confusion and questions openly. Our job is to help you understand course material and giving regular feedback in the form of questions helps us know when to slow down covering certain topics. If you ever get stuck on a problem or any concept in this course, please reach out for help! Assignments are only meant to take a few hours in total, so if you get stuck on a problem for more than 30 minutes or so, just close the assignment and reach out for assistance. Do not be worried about if you will be able to pass the class or not. If you are sincerely engaged and genuinely giving your best effort, you will at the very least get a passing grade (and likely do much better). In short, we genuinely want to help you, but if we don't know what you need we often can't give you the help you deserve.

Course Objectives

There are three primary objectives of this course:

- Improve your ability to pose and answer research questions
- Provide you with analytical tools used in political science research
- Encourage you to abide by conventional statistical "etiquette" and discouraging the intentional or unintentional abuse of misleading statistics

Teaching Philosophy

Students study political science for a myriad of reasons: some seek to change the world, others seek to impact their communities, and a number just hope to figure out what their next step in life should be. As an educator, my principal goal is to help a diverse array of students reach an equally diverse set of goals. To reach this end, I seek to foster an inclusive learning environment that welcomes students of different backgrounds and political beliefs. I want students to develop the ability to critically evaluate both academic literature and contemporary political rhetoric as well as be able to persuasively communicate their own arguments. I also want to introduce students to a variety of methodological tools so they can better understand the power (and limitations) of statistical inference as well as use these tools to advance their research ideas. Finally, I genuinely enjoy teaching and want to help students succeed whether it be making them aware of academic opportunities, helping them market themselves as future professionals, or kindling an intellectual curiosity in them that lights the way to a lifetime of learning.

Required Text:

Galderisi, P. (2015). *Understanding political science statistics: observations and expectations in political analysis*. Routledge.

Additional assigned readings will be available on Canvas or linked in this syllabus.

Email Policy

Email me at ama004@ucsd.edu anytime with questions! If you do, please use the subject **POLI 30D.** This will route your email to a special inbox and I will likely be able to respond quicker. Please expect responses within 2 business days, although I aim to be quicker. Note: TAs may diverge or have variations on this email policy. This said, **we are all here to help you so please email us if you have questions or concerns**. It is much easier for everyone to resolve problems earlier than later. We all genuinely care about you and your success; communicating with us will help us help you!

Course Evaluation

Assignment	Grade Total (Percent)
Welcome Quiz	2%
Participation	10%
Homework	48% (12% each)
Midterm	20%
Final	20%

Lectures and Sections: This course in includes 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 knowing information presented in lectures, sections, and readings.

Regrade Policy

I strongly discourage requests for regrades, except in circumstances of clerical error. All regrade requests must be submitted to the instructor with a single-page explanation detailing the source of the error. In instances of clerical error, the instructor will amend your grade. In all other cases, another TA or the Instructor will be randomly assigned to regrade your <u>entire work</u>. **Historically, this has led more often than not to receiving a lower grade.** Final exams and final grades are not eligible for regrade. In accordance with university policy, final grades will only be corrected in the event of clerical error.

Extension & Late Assignment Policy

Your assignment deadlines are not like stop signs in California, so please refrain from treating them as suggestions. Assignments are designed to be completed over several sittings, so some may struggle to complete them close to the deadline. Assignments come with a recommended timeline to help pace out working on assignments. Aiming to complete assignments somewhat early will help you a) avoid potentially running out of time and b) allow you to ask your TA questions about the assignment with time for revision. In accordance with the email policy, TAs are not obligated to respond to questions about assignments within 48 hours of the assignment deadline. Late assignments carry a 5% penalty per day until they reach the maximum 25% penalty. Extensions can be granted for documented illnesses or emergencies. Please contact your TA as soon as possible if you need an extension.

Extra Credit Policy

The instructor retains the right to offer extra credit opportunities at his discretion but in general students should not expect any extra credit opportunity will be offered. If extra credit is offered it would not constitute a substantial portion of the total grade. Asking for extra credit, reduces the likelihood it will be offered.

Schedule

Meeting	Date	Topic	Assignments
1	April 3, 2023 (M)	PROBLEMS	None
2	April 5, 2023 (W)	Of Science & Politics	Read Syllabus
Section 1		Introductions	**Welcome Quiz due (Fri 8:59pm)**
3	April 10, 2023 (M)	Hypothesis & Causal Inference	UPSS, Chapter 1
4	April 12, 2023 (W)	Validity, Reliability, Measurement, & Graphs	UPSS, Chapter 2
Section 2		Variable Review & Discussion on Polling	Read this article Also, read this article Optional: this article
5	April 17, 2023 (M)	To Experiments & Beyond	Read Gerber-Green paper Read Connecticut paper
6	April 19, 2023 (W)	Descriptive Statistics	UPSS, Chapter 3 & 4
Section 3		Experiments & Descriptive Statistics Review	Read Diamond Paper
7	April 24, 2023 (M)	Drawing a Sample	**Homework 1 due (8:59 pm)** Read this article
8	April 26, 2023 (W)	Normal Distribution	UPSS, Chapter 5
Section 4		Experiment Activity & Normal Distribution Review	None
9	May 1, 2023 (M)	**MIDTERM**	
10	May 3, 2023 (W)	Hypothesis Testing I	UPSS, Chapter 6
Section 5		Hypothesis Testing Review and reading SPSS outputs	Skim UPSS, Chapter 7
11	May 8, 2023 (M)	Hypothesis Testing II	Read UPSS, Chapter 7
12	May 10, 2023 (W)	Research Design	UPSS, Chapter 10
Section 6		Critiquing Designs & When to Pair a t-test	Read this article
13	May 15, 2023 (M)	Cross Tabs & Chi-Square	UPSS, Chapter 8, p. 171-180 UPSS, Chapter 9, p. 185-196 **Homework 2 due (8:59 pm)**
14	May 17, 2023 (W)	Chi-Square & Lambda	UPSS, Chapter 9, p. 189-211

Section 7		Tables, Cross Tabs, & Chi Square Review	Read Fowler paper
15	May 22, 2023 (M)	Regression I	UPSS, Chapter 11
16	May 24, 2023 (W)	Regression II	UPSS, Chapter 12
Section 8		Regression Review	**Homework 3 due (Fri 8:59 pm)** Read Dogs paper
17	May 29, 2023 (M)	**NO CLASS**	MEMORIAL DAY
18*	May 31, 2023 (W)	Qualitative Methods https://ucsd.zoom.us/j/ 96778911157	Anderson paper Cramer paper Optional: Arriola paper
Section 9		Qualitative Methods Review	Clem paper China-India paper
19	June 5, 2023 (M)	Special Topics: TBD	None
20	June 7, 2023 (W)	Course Review	**Homework 4 due (8:59 pm)**
Section 10		Course Review	
	June 16, 2023 (F)	FINAL	

I reserve the right to amend the schedule as needed. Any and all amendments will be announced via Canvas.

*Note: I will be out-of-state during Week 9. Lecture will be held virtually on May 31, 2023 at https://ucsd.zoom.us/j/96778911157. All other lectures will be held in person at Center Hall 115.

Poli 30D resource (highly recommended)

The department has created a Canvas resource specifically for Poli 30D—yes, seriously! This resource has both text-based and video guides that cover almost all of the topics we will be discussing in this class. Furthermore, the resource contains numerous practice quizzes to test your understanding! Who knows? Perhaps, I'll borrow a question or two for an exam… Either way, I would highly recommend checking out this resource (assuming you like things that help your grade that is).

To access the resources, simply click or cut-and-paste the following link into your browser, then select "Enroll in Course" and "Go to the Course": https://canvas.ucsd.edu/enroll/B3YN3M

Academic Integrity

Simply put: do not cheat or plagiarize. I encourage working with fellow students to prepare for exams but collaborating once an exam is in session is considered cheating and strictly prohibited. Cheating will result in failing the class and recommendation for disciplinary action. As for plagiarism, make sure you cite any works you consult and borrow language or ideas from. Plagiarism will carry a very steep penalty at the instructor's discretion. Use of artificial intelligence to write assignments is also a serious violation of academic integrity. For a more formal statement on academic integrity, see the below statement from the Academic Integrity Office:

"Academic Integrity is expected of everyone at UC San Diego. This means that you must be honest, fair, responsible, respectful, and trustworthy in all of your actions. Lying, cheating, or any other forms of dishonesty will not be tolerated because they undermine learning and the University's ability to certify students' knowledge and abilities. Thus, any attempt to get, or help another get, a grade by cheating, lying or dishonesty will be reported to the Academic Integrity Office and will result in sanctions. Sanctions can include an F in the class and suspension or dismissal from the University. So, think carefully before you act. Before you act, ask yourself the following questions: a: is my action honest, fair, respectful, responsible, and trustworthy, and b) is my action authorized by the instructor? If you are unsure, don't ask a friend, ask your instructor, instructional assistant, or the Academic Integrity Office. You can learn more about academic integrity at academicintegrity.ucsd.edu."

Academic Advising Questions

Students who have academic advising questions related to the Political Science major should contact the department's Undergraduate Advisor, Emilie Hines, via the Virtual Advising Center. Academic advising questions often include (but are not limited to): add/drop deadlines, course enrollment policies, planning major and minor requirements, quarter-by-quarter plans, department petitions and paperwork, and referrals to campus and student support services.

Student Resources for Support and Learning

    Library Help

        For questions about eReserves and research tools, Ask a Librarian.

    Learning Resources
        Writing Hub
        Supplemental Instruction
        Tutoring
        CAPS Student Health and Well-Being

    Community Centers
        Learn about the different ways UC San Diego explores, supports and celebrates the many cultures that make up our diverse community at

[Student Life Diversity.](#)

Accessibility

Students requesting accommodations for this course due to a disability must provide a current Authorization for Accommodation (AFA) letter issued by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) which is located in University Center 202 behind Center Hall. Students are required to present their AFA letters to Faculty (please make arrangements to contact me privately) and to the OSD Liaison in the department in advance so that accommodations may be arranged.

Contact the OSD for further information: https://disabilities.ucsd.edu/.
osd@ucsd.edu | 858. 534.4382

Basic Needs

Any student who has difficulty accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in this course, is encouraged to contact:
foodpantry@.ucsd.edu | basicneeds@ucsd.edu | (858)246-2632

Technical Support

For help with accounts, network, and technical issues:
https://acms.ucsd.edu/contact/index.html

For help connecting to electronic library resources such as eReserves and e-journals:
https://library.ucsd.edu/computing-and-technology/connect-from-off-campus/

For help installing Zoom for video conferencing, virtual office hours, synchronous lectures:
https://blink.ucsd.edu/technology/file-sharing/zoom/index.html

I reserve the right to amend the syllabus as needed. Any and all amendments will be announced via Canvas.