

Department of Political Science
University of Oklahoma

PSc 2013
Introduction to Political Analysis
Syllabus, Fall 2008

Instructor: William Hanson **E-Mail:** whanson@ou.edu

Office Phone: tbd

Office Hours: tbd

Class Times: Tues and Thurs 1:30 – 2:45p

Class Location: Adams Hall, Room 304

Online Materials: <http://learn.ou.edu>

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the use of the scientific method as it applies to questions of politics and policy. The course will include introductory sections on research and experimental design, development and measurement of variables, sampling, survey research, basic statistical testing.

Prerequisite: Completion of PSc 1113.

Course Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Demonstrate the basics of practical political analysis
- Demonstrate the basic ability to define and measure variables
- Demonstrate the ability to create and test hypotheses
- Demonstrate the correct use of basic statistical tests
- Identify potential mis-uses of analysis
- Demonstrate the use of Microsoft Excel to create simple comparisons of data, such as tabulations and simple charts
- Demonstrate the use of Microsoft Excel to perform basic statistical tests
- Identify situations where simple tools such as Microsoft Excel are not appropriate for analysis

Hardware and Software requirements:

- Microsoft Excel (available on all computers in campus computer labs)
- Computer capability sufficient to connect with the D2L website (<http://learn.ou.edu/ComputerReq.asp>).
- A web browser (Internet Explorer, Netscape Navigator or Mozilla – same as D2L requirement)

Graded Items:

1. There will be periodic quizzes, worth a total of 100 points. Quizzes will be given at the beginning of class and will include multiple choice, definitions, practical exercises and short answers.
2. There will be a mid-term, worth 200 points. The mid-term will include multiple choice, definitions, practical exercises, short answers, and essays.
3. You will have one final project, worth 200 points. This will be a case study in which you will integrate ideas and themes from the course material.
4. There will be one comprehensive final exam, worth 250 points. The exam will cover the entire course, but will be weighted toward material presented after the mid-term. Part of the exam will be take-home.
5. Homework will be assigned most weeks. Students will be able to throw out their lowest score.
6. Attendance and participation will be part of your grade. This is a “learn by doing” type of class, and it will be very difficult to do well if you do not attend or participate.
7. There may be opportunities for extra credit at the instructor’s discretion.

Required Textbook

The Essentials of Political Analysis, 2nd ed., Philip Pollock III. CQ Press, 2005.
ISBN 1-56802-997-7

Optional Reference (Not required, but helpful if you have never done anything with Excel)

Statistical Analysis With Excel For Dummies, Joseph Schmuller. Wiley Publishing, 2005.
ISBN 0-7645-7594-5

Grading:

Item	Points	Weight	Final Grades – Points (%)
Quizzes	100	10%	A: 900 + (90% and above)
Mid Term	200	20%	B: 800 – 899 (89% – 80%)
Homework (10@15 pts) (11 assignments – throw out lowest)	150	15%	C: 700 – 799 (79% – 70%) D: 600 – 699 (69% – 60%) F: less than 600 (below 60%)
Final Project	200	20%	
Final Exam	250	25%	
Attendance & Participation	100	10%	
Total	1000	100%	

A grade of A implies that all requirements have been met and substantially exceeded. “A, the highest grade, is given of work of exceptional quality. D is the lowest grade for which credit is given in any undergraduate college and means that, although in the judgment of the instructor credit should be allowed for the course, a degree will not be conferred upon a student whose work is all of that level.” (*The University of Oklahoma General Catalog, 2003-2006*, p. 34)

A grade of F implies failure to meet minimal requirements. School of Library and Information Studies policy requires that any student receiving a grade of F be recommended for dismissal from the Bachelor of Arts and Information Studies Program.

My Expectations:

1. Drinking is allowed...Eating is not allowed.
2. Cell Phones are to be turned off during class.
3. Be on time – to class and with projects. Attendance will be taken at the start of each class and is part of your grade.
4. Come to class to **actively** participate. It is essential to your development and understanding of the course – part of your grade depends on it. I will appreciate your effort and you in turn will find the time spent in class more enjoyable.
5. Read the assignment and be prepared for each class session.
6. You are expected to bring your book to class – we will discuss specific case studies in class.
7. Do not hesitate to ask questions during class. If it is not clear to you, it probably is not clear to someone else.
8. Do not expect me to lecture the entire class period. This will be a “project oriented” class to help you “learn by doing”.

Due Dates and Late Assignments

All assignments are due in the D2L dropbox at 12 Noon, OU local time, on the due date in the syllabus. Late work will not be accepted except under extraordinary circumstances, and then only by prior arrangement with the instructor. Computer problems, illness, family issues, or schedule conflicts are not valid reasons for late work – plan ahead.

Course Outline (All readings are from the course text unless otherwise stated -- Graded items in Bold Print):

Week	Dates	Subject	Reading
1	26,28 Aug	Introduction -- The Scientific Approach	Introduction
2	2,4 Sep	Measurement of Concepts Homework #1 Due 2 Sep	Chapter 1
3	9,11 Sep	Validity and Reliability of Data Homework #2 Due 9 Sep	Chapter 1 Handouts
4	16,18 Sep	Creating Hypotheses Getting Data into Excel Homework #3 Due 16 Sep	Chapter 2 Handouts
5	23,25 Sep	Experimental Design Homework #4 Due 23 Sep	Chapter 2 Handouts
6	30 Sep, 2 Oct	Defining Variables Graphs and Patterns Homework #5 Due 30 Sep	Chapter 3
7	7,9 Oct	Creating Crosstabs and Graphs in Excel Homework #6 Due 7 Oct Controlling for Other Variables (Beat Texas!)	Chapter 3 Handouts Chapter 4
8	13,16 Oct	Controlling for other variables Homework #7 Due 13 Oct Review for Midterm	Chapter 4
9	21,23 Oct	Midterm 21 Oct Random Sampling	Chapter 5
10	28,30 Oct	Statistical Inference Statistical Tests in Excel Homework #8 Due 28 Oct	Chapter 5 Handouts
11	4,6 Nov	Tests of Significance Homework #9 Due 4 Nov	Chapter 6
12	11,13 Nov	Correlation Homework #10 Due 11 Nov	Chapter 7 Handouts
13	18,20 Nov	Linear Regression Correlation and Regression using Excel Homework #11 Due 18 Nov	Chapter 7
14	25 Nov	Correlation and Regression No Class on 27 Nov -- Thanksgiving Holiday	Handouts
15	3,4 Dec	Advanced Topics – Logistic Regression Homework #12 Due 3 Dec Final Project Due in D2L Dropbox by 5pm, Fri Dec 5	Chapter 8
16	9,11 Dec	What Have We Learned? Review for Final	Chapter 9
Finals	17 Dec	Final Exam: 1:30-3:30 PM	

Academic Integrity:

(the following statement is extracted from <http://www.ou.edu/provost/integrity> -- all students are encouraged to review the OU policy and to discuss any issues or questions with me)

What does "academic integrity" mean?

Academic integrity means honesty and responsibility in scholarship. Professors have to obey rules of honest scholarship, and so do students. Here are the basic assumptions about academic work at the University of Oklahoma:

- (1) Students attend OU in order to learn and grow.
- (2) Academic assignments exist for the sake of this goal.
- (3) Grades exist to show how fully the goal is attained.
- (4) Thus, all work and all grades should result from the student's own effort to learn and grow. Academic work completed any other way is pointless, and grades obtained any other way are fraudulent.

Academic integrity means understanding and respecting these basic truths, without which no university can exist. Academic misconduct -- "cheating" -- is not just "against the rules." It violates the assumptions at the heart of all learning. It destroys the mutual trust and respect that should exist between student and professor. Finally, it is unfair to students who earn their grades honestly.

Sexual Harassment Policy:

The University of Oklahoma explicitly condemns sexual harassment of students, staff, and faculty. Sexual harassment is unlawful and may subject those who engage in it to university sanctions as well as civil and criminal penalties. Sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature in the following context:

- 1) When submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment or academic standing, or
- 2) When submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment or academic decisions affecting such individual, or
- 3) When such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or academic performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working or academic environment.

University of Oklahoma Reasonable Accommodation Policy on Disabilities

Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his or her abilities should contact me personally as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate your educational opportunities.

University of Oklahoma Policy on Religious Holidays

It is the policy of the University to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays.

Internet Information

Course material will be posted on the OU Desire 2 Learn site (<http://learn.ou.edu>). Slides, revisions to this syllabus, announcements, and revisions to the course outline will be posted in the appropriate folder. You are required to use this Internet site to keep abreast of course changes. The D2L site will also include the class discussion board and chat room.

WILLIAM E. HANSON
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