
POLI 3000:0002: Analyzing Political Data
Spring 2021
Course Outline¹

Often only selections from the listed chapter(s) will be assigned; pay attention to the page numbers. Also check ICON for additional readings or preparation for in-class activities.

Laying the Foundation & Exploring Data

- January 26 (Tues): Overview of Course & Introductions
 - Syllabus

- January 28 (Thurs): Correlation & Causation: The Role of Theory
 - See ICON
 - EoS p. 350

- February 2 (Tues): Theory, Hypotheses, & the Importance of Measurement
 - EoS Chapter 1 p. 1-7
 - Munck, Gerado and Jay Verkuilen. 2002. “Conceptualizing and Measuring Democracy.” *Comparative Political Studies*. 35(1): 5-14 (ONLY READ the first 10 pages of the article)

- February 4 (Thurs): Levels of Analysis & Levels of Measurement
 - EoS, Chapter 1 p. 10-17

- February 9 (Tues): Measures of Central Tendency & Dispersion
 - EoS Chapter 3 p. 63-73; 75-77; Chapter 4 p. 87-101; 104-106

- February 11 (Thurs): Visualizing Data
 - See ICON for visualization activity. An hour before class, upload to ICON a “bad” graph found in the news or an academic article/policy report.
 - EoS, Chapter 2 p. 46-51

¹I reserve the right to make changes with respect to topics and pacing, but will try to stick to the schedule as much as possible. You will be notified of any changes through e-mail as well as an updated schedule posted to ICON.

- February 16 (Tues): Distributions of Real World Data
 - See ICON for a brief survey. We'll analyze the answers in class!
 - We will begin using Stata today. Bring your laptop if possible.
- February 18 (Thurs): Using UIowa Libraries for Research & The Normal Distribution
 - Guest visit from our librarian Brett Cloyd. Bring questions about the paper, finding good sources, finding good data, etc.
 - EoS Chapter 5 p. 118-130

Inferential Statistics

- February 23 & 25: Understanding the Probability in Statistics
 - See resources on ICON
- March 2 (Tues): No Classes
- March 4 (Thurs): Sampling & Sampling Bias
 - EoS Chapter 6, p. 140-143
- March 9 (Tues): Sampling Distributions & The Central Limit Theorem
 - See Bunnies & Dragons video on ICON
 - EoS Chapter 6, p. 143-151
- March 11 (Thurs): Estimator Bias & Efficiency
 - EoS Chapter 6, p.151-154
- March 16 (Tues): Hypothesis Testing with Confidence Intervals
 - EoS Chapter 6, p. 154-165 & Chapter 7, p. 176-186
- March 18 (Thurs): Hypothesis Testing with p-Values
 - EoS Chapter 7, p. 191-203
- March 23 (Tues): Catch Up/Review for Midterm
 - Bring questions to class!

- March 25 (Thurs): **Midterm Exam**

Evaluating Bivariate Relationships

- March 30 (Tues): **Difference in Means & Proportions**
 - EoS Chapter 8, p. 207-217; 219-227
- April 1 & 6: **Crosstabs: χ^2 Test of Independence**
 - EoS Chapter 10, p. 265-278
- April 8 (Thurs): **Strength of Association: Going Beyond the χ^2**
 - EoS Chapter 11, 292-312, 315-319
- April 13 (Tues): **Correlation**
 - EoS Chapter 12, p. 341-342
- April 15 (Thurs): **Going from Correlation to Regression**
 - EoS Chapter 12, p. 328-346
- April 20 & 22: **Data Analysis Paper Workshop**
 - Read your group's papers and provide feedback!
- April 27 (Tues): **Regression (Cont.)**
 - EoS Chapter 12, p. 328-346
- April 29 (Thurs): **Hurdles of Causality & Regression**
- May 4 (Thurs): **Turning a Simple Regression into a Multiple Regression**
 - Mendez, Jeanette and Tracy Osborn. 2010. "Gender and Perception of Knowledge in Political Discussion." Political Research Quarterly. 63(2): 269-279.
 - EoS Chapter 12, p. 351-352, Chapter 13, p. 364-367, 372-376, 384
- May 6 (Thurs): **Catch Up & Final Exam Review**