

POLI 380 - Quantitative Methods in Political Science

2016-2017 Term I (M-W 11PM-12PM)

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Office Hours: Friday 3pm-5pm

Teaching Assistants:

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1. Overview and Objectives

Students will be guided through the learning material on the UBC Connect website. Class time will be used for a range of activities to learn the material actively. Tutorial/Lab sections will involve computer software demonstrations by a teaching assistant. TAs' office hours are the 2nd hour of each tutorial.

2. Immediate To-Do List

- **Buy the textbook:** Kellstedt, Paul and Guy Whitten. *The Fundamentals of Political Science Research*. (either edition is fine).
- **Stata.** This is in the Arts computer labs. Or, even better, put it on your computer. Any recent version (after about v. 11) will do. You can rent it for 6 months from <http://bit.ly/J5RDai>. You will want to buy the six month license for 'Small Stata 14', which currently costs \$38. The rental is a worthwhile investment, it allows you to complete the assignments on your laptop rather than having to use Stata only in the Arts computer labs.

- **Learning Catalytics.** To participate in some of the classroom activities, you will need to purchase a six month account which will cost you \$12. There will be more information about Learning Catalytics available on our course website.

3. How This Works

There is no syllabus schedule provided here due to the ‘blended’ nature of this course. The course is guided by the Connect website, so you must go there to follow the progression of learning materials.

A given week will work as follows:

- You do the Connect material prior to Monday’s class
- You come and participate in “lectures” on Monday and Wednesday
- You go to a lab session
- We will sometimes have Q&As on Friday, I will announce in advance

IMPORTANT: YOU WILL HAVE AN ID NUMBER FOR THIS COURSE. It will be listed soon on our course website.

4. Required Texts and Softwares

- **Textbook:** Kellstedt, Paul and Guy Whitten. The Fundamentals of Political Science Research.
- **Lab Book:** On the Connect Website
- **Stata:** Statistical package. On Arts computer lab and/or <http://bit.ly/J5RDai>
- **Learning Catalytics:** For in-class participation.

5. Evaluation

- THREE Assignments submitted on Connect. (Total 50%)
 - Assignment 1 (15%) Oct. 5th
 - Assignment 2 (15%) Nov. 16th
 - Assignment 3 (20%) Nov. 30th
- Four 25-30 minute mini-tests worth 5% each. All will start at 11am sharp. (Total 20%)
 - Fri Sept. 23rd
 - Fri Oct. 21st

- Fri Nov. 4th
- Fri Nov. 25th
- Final Examination: 25%
- Class participation: 5%. Based on the frequency of your responses to Learning Catalytics questions.
- 1% extra credit may be possible for participation in the Political Science Experimental Subject Pool (or alternate activities). Details will be provided in class and on the website. Please don't ask by email.

6. Course Outline

The Weekly Learning Modules are called:

- Week 1: Introduction
- Week 2: Framework of Empirical Social Science
- Week 3: Measurement, Data, and Samples
- Week 4: Summarizing Data
- Week 5: The Structure of Randomness
- Week 6: Samples, the Sampling Distribution, and Estimates of Uncertainty
- Week 7: Two-Variable Relationships
- Week 8: Difference of Means
- Week 9: Regression
- Week 10: Regression Inference
- Weeks 11 & 12: Multiple Regression
- Weeks 13: Putting it all together