POL59: The Linear Model

Danielle Jung, Tuesday 1:00 – 4:00pm, MAX: 12

Content: This course provides a thorough foundation for understanding and using regression analysis for empirical research in political science, with a focus on causality and inference. After a basic primer on rudimentary calculus and matrix algebra, and a discussion of the properties of statistical estimators, the course builds the ordinary regression model and estimators from ground up. It covers model assumptions and techniques for detecting and addressing violations of those assumptions. The class will also incorporate variations on and extensions to the linear model that are commonly used to help address problems of causal inference, including randomized controlled trials, regression discontinuity, instrumental variables, differences-in-differences, and matching. The emphasis throughout is on causality applied techniques common in current political science research.

Texts:


Oxford University Press.

Harvard University Press.

POLS 510: Intro to International Politics

Dan Reiter, Monday 9:00 am – 12:00 pm, MAX: 12

Content: This is the introductory course to international relations for political science graduate students. The emphasis is theoretical, covering issues such as international conflict, decision-making, trade, and system structure. The class uses a discussion format.

Particulars: One exam; several short papers. All students other than political science graduate students must receive permission from the instructor.

Texts:
Basic Books.

W.W. Norton & Company, Inc.

W.W. Norton & Company, Inc.

Waltz, Kenneth N. 2001. Man, the State, and War. ISBN: 9780231125376
Columbia University Press.

POLS 513: Introduction to Game Theory

Jeff Staton, Monday 1:00 – 4:00 pm, MAX: 12

Content: Introduction to game theory. The focus of the class will be on the basic tools and solution concepts of game theory. We will also consider the usefulness of formal theory and its appropriate/inappropriate application.

Particulars: Exams—Midterm and final exams
Grading—Midterm exam-30%; Final exam-30%; Problem sets-40%

Texts:
Oxford University Press.
POLS 515: Applied Game Theory

Shawn Ramirez, Friday 9:00 am – 12:00 pm, MAX: 12

Content: This course hones prior training by examining how techniques are used in formal science research. Topics may include voting and elections, political institutions, regime transition/consolidation, principal agent models, bargaining, information/cheap talk, role of third parties and committees, deterrence, mechanism design, and endogenous state formation. Lectures and problem sets will emphasize solution concepts and modeling variations. Student will complete exams and assignments independently. Mandatory prerequisites are POLS 513 and 514.

No textbooks required.

POLS 542: Public Opinion and Voting

Alan Abramowitz, Thursday 1:00 – 4:00 pm, MAX: 12

Content: This course will involve an intensive examination of some of the classic works on elections and voting behavior in the United States as well as recent scholarship. Topics to be covered will include party identification, party realignment and dealignment, effects of political campaigns and advertising, campaign finance, candidate recruitment, and primary elections. Student will be responsible for leading class discussion on selected topics.

Texts: TBD

POLS 571: Longitudinal Data Analysis

Gregory Martin, Thursday 8:30 – 11:30 am, MAX: 12

Content: Data with a time dimension are ubiquitous in applied political science research. This course covers quantitative methods for dealing with time series, panels, and event histories. We will cover both theory and applications of these methods, with the goal of getting students up to speed to be both producers and consumers of cutting-edge empirical research.

POLS 572: Modeling Complex Systems

Courtney Brown, Monday and Wednesday 4:00 – 5:15 pm, MAX: 4

Content: This seminar approaches the study of politics and society from the perspective of the new field of complex systems. This is a cutting edge area, and students gain an appreciation for how a great many social and political phenomena are actually the result of underlying systems that are both beautiful and sophisticated (including fractal systems). The course is ideal for assisting students to develop unique and nontrivial theories of politics and society together with model specifications that exactly match those theories. Helping student develop theories and specifications useful for research is a key component of the course. The subject is taught with an extremely user-friendly approach, and students should have little or no trouble mastering the course content. High school algebra is all that is required to begin. Substantively, the course focuses on a system’s view of modeling, and students will learn a great many practical tools that help to bridge the divide between and verbally-state theory and its mathematical representation. Check out the syllabus and other course materials at www.courtneybrown.com [Click on “Student Area (Emory)” in the navigation menu. Also see the instructor’s videos on the value of knowing mathematical modeling, statistics, and R for today’s graduates.]

Particulars: Written assignments; class presentations (students develop and present their own theories).

Texts:


POLS 585: Law and Politics

Jeff Staton, Wednesday 9:00 am – 12:00 pm, MAX: 12

Content: This seminar concerns comparative and international law and politics. Topics include law and development, constitutionalism, inter-branch and inter-court relations, institutional design and change of judicial systems, judicial policy-making, the rights revolution, and legal networks.

No textbooks required.

POLS 585: Politics of Race and Gender

Note: This course is also being taught as Women’s Gender Studies 586R.

Beth Reingold, Wednesday 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm, MAX: 6

Content: Gender and race interact and intersect in complex and confounding ways, yet they have a persistently powerful influence upon politics and society. This seminar will introduce students to major theoretical perspectives, debates, controversies, and research findings in the empirical study of gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, and politics primarily in the United States. Depending on student interest, we may also explore related research in international relations and comparative politics.

Readings and class discussion will concentrate on four general themes:

- the role of gender/sexuality/race/ethnicity, sexism/heteronormativity/racism/ethnocentrism, in defining and shaping politics, political institutions, political culture, and political science;
- the various ways in which women (across racial/ethnic identities) and persons of color (across gender identities), as political actors, observers, and scholars, have challenged and redefined “politics as usual;”
- the questions of whether and how political (interest) groups can or should be defined or studied in terms of gender, sexuality, race, and/or ethnicity; and
- the intersecting, interdependent relationships between gender, race, class, ethnicity, sexuality, and religious and national identities

Thus, we will study gender and race (and, to a lesser extent, sexuality and ethnicity) both as political constructs or ideologies and as systems of political (economic and social) stratification. In addition, we will examine how these aspects of gender and race affect the political behavior
and experiences of women, persons of color, and other marginalized groups as citizens, workers, voters, political activists, community leaders, political candidates, and public officials. Our examination of the subject will necessarily take an interdisciplinary approach, incorporating perspectives from political science, women's/gender/sexuality studies, African American studies, Latino studies, history, sociology, social psychology, etc., into our overall understanding of gender and race and their critical influence upon politics.

**Textbooks:**
Core texts will likely include a number of earlier, “foundational” works, such as:

More recent research that builds upon, complements, and/or challenges these foundational studies (and others) will also be incorporated, both as assigned course materials and through students’ own independent research. Examples may include:

We will also rely heavily on journal articles, selected book chapters, essays, etc.—foundational or otherwise.

**NOTE:** These lists of texts are TENTATIVE. Required texts and topics for the course will depend on student interests and needs. Thus, they will not be finalized until the first week of the semester.