POLS 509: Linear Model

Zac Peskowitz, Tuesday, 8:30am - 11:30am, MAX: 12

Content: Political Science 509 is an introduction to probability and statistics for Political Science PhD students. In the first half of the course we will cover the foundations of probability theory, properties of random variables, asymptotic approximations, methods for developing and evaluating statistical estimators, and hypothesis testing. The second half of the course will develop the linear regression model with a focus on its assumptions, statistical properties, inference, and diagnostics. An additional goal of the course is to improve students' statistical computing skills through in-class exercises and problem sets.

Texts:

POLS 512: Conflict

Danielle Jung, Thursday, 8:30am – 11:30am, MAX: 12

Content: This class, together with POLS 510 and POLS 585 "Security," is intended to prepare political science graduate students for the comprehensive examination in conflict. The class covers an array of topics related to conflict in the international system and politics, including: alliances, war termination, the relationships between domestic politics and international conflict, counterinsurgency, international institutions, the bargaining model of war, and others. The course is permission-only for students other than political science graduate students. Grading is based on class participation, short papers, and a long research paper.

No textbooks required.
POLS 513: Intro to Game Theory

Cliff Carrubba, Monday, 9:00am – 12:00pm, 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-40%; Problem sets-30%

Texts:
Eric Rasmusen. Games and Information.
ISBN: 9781405136662
Blackwell Publishing.

POLS 515: Applied Game Theory

Shawn Ramirez, Friday 9:00am - 12:00pm, 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 519: International Political Economy

Eric Reinhardt, Wednesday 9:00am – 12:00pm, MAX 12

Content: This is an advanced graduate course on international political economy. The course covers the politics of international trade, investment, and finance. Topics of special interest are the instruments of trade policy; pluralist and institutionalist domestic explanations of trade policy; international bargaining over trade; regional and multilateral trade institutions; the politics of international capital mobility, foreign direct investment, exchange rates, and foreign debt; the politics of financial crises; and regional economic integration.

Particulars: class participation, papers, final exam

Texts: No texts ordered.

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POLS 540: American Government and Politics

Tom Clark, Wednesday 1:00 - 4:00pm, MAX: 12

Content: General survey of classic and recent research on major questions in American politics research. Topics include public opinion, mass media, voting and participation, elections, institutional theories, Congress, the Presidency, the bureaucracy, the judiciary, and inequality. The development of areas of research will be stressed, along with the theoretical frameworks dominant in substantive areas of inquiry.

Texts:
ISBN: 9780521407861
Cambridge University Press.

Prior, Markus. 2007.
Post Broadcast Democracy.
ISBN: 9780521675338
Cambridge University Press.

Pivotal Politics: A Theory of U. S. Lawmaking.
ISBN: 9780226452722
University of Chicago Press.

POLS 571: Longitudinal Data Analysis

Greg Martin, Monday 1:00pm – 4:00pm, 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.

Texts:

POLS 572: Modeling Complex Systems

Courtney Brown, Tuesday & Thursday 4:00pm – 5:15pm, MAX: 2

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 students 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 a verbally-stated theory and its mathematical representation.
**Texts:**


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**POLS 585-00P: Variable Topics Seminar**

**Topic/Title: Polarization**

Alan Abramowitz, Tuesday 1:00pm - 4:00pm, MAX: 2

**Content:** This seminar will examine the extent, causes and consequences of polarization in American politics. The growing ideological divide between the Democratic and Republican parties has affected almost every aspect of American politics in recent years including public opinion, campaigns and elections, Congress, the executive branch, and the courts. We will explore this phenomenon first by discussing classic studies and recent research on the political process in the U.S. and then through student presentations of original research on specific topics involving polarization in contemporary American politics including party leadership and organization in Congress, demographic trends in American society, campaign strategies, voting behavior in congressional and presidential elections, judicial appointments and decision—
making, and the rise of the Tea Party movement. Grades will be based on a midterm examination, participation in class discussion, research presentations and a 15-20 page research paper.

Journal articles can be downloaded from www.jstor.org. Other assigned readings will be distributed in class and/or made available on the blackboard website for the class.

**Texts:**
Brookings Institution.

Pearson Longman.

Basic Books.

ISBN: 9780691151830
Princeton University Press.

**POLS 585-01P: Variable Topics Seminar**
**Topic/Title:** Courts, Judges, Controversies

Tom Clark, Thursday 1:00pm – 4:00pm, MAX: 4

**Content:** Does affirmative action help or hurt academic performance? Does electing judges distort their impartiality? Are judges racially biased in their criminal sentencing decisions? In this course, we examine a number of controversial topics involving courts, judges, and legal policy. We examine difficult-to-study questions about the relationships among decisions, policies, and outcomes. Through doing so, we will learn about research design and statistical analysis.

**No textbooks required.**