

POL374, Section 01 (CID 84405)
Quantitative Methods for Political Science
ONLINE

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OFFICE HOURS:

- Drop-in Office Hours: MW 1:00 – 3:00 PM (in CHSS489)
- Online Office Hours: MWF 11:00 - 11:50 AM
- “Stats” Help Session: To Be Determined
- By Appointment: Everyday (in CHSS489 or computer lab)

Course Description: This is an introduction to research design and quantitative methods used in contemporary political science research. Students will apply the tools of social science inquiry in a series of projects designed to examine such phenomena as political attitudes and behavior. Emphasis is on the use of descriptive statistics; tabular and graphic presentation of data; measures of association and correlations; and multivariate analysis in political research. Prerequisites: 6 hours POL.

Course Objectives: Specific course objectives include:

- Students will gain factual knowledge and information regarding quantitative statistical methods
- Students will learn fundamental principles and theories in the area of statistical methods
- Students will increase analytical, critical thinking, and communication skills

Textbooks & Required Materials:

Caldwell, Sally. 2007. *Statistics Unplugged 3rd Edition*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth-Thomson Learning.

Additional readings posted on the course website.

A **computer** that you have permissions to install software on and a **webcam & microphone** for completing assignments and communicating with Dr. Ulbig and classmates.

Optional Materials:

SPSS 19.0 (GradPack). This is the SPSS data analysis software. While I use SPSS 17.0 for my lecture, SPSS 19.0 is the latest version and quite similar to SPSS 17.0. There should be no problem using SPSS 19.0 for this class. SPSS 19.0 is available for rent on-line for \$35.00. It will allow you to load the software on your personal computer and use it for 6 months (see ‘SPSS Materials’ on course website for links). You can also use SPSS 17.0 at any of the SHSU computer labs, including the University Center lab. See FAQs on course website for more information regarding access to the SPSS software.

Assignments, Exams, and Grading: Your grade in this course will be determined by your performance on 10 problem sets, practice exercises, a final project, and a comprehensive final exam:

Problem Sets (10@4% each)	40%
Practice Exercises	10%
Final Project	25%
Final Exam	25%

The **problem sets** will apply concepts discussed in the lectures and the in-class exercises, and will often involve data analysis using SPSS. All problem sets are due at the time indicated on the Course Schedule. Late problem sets will not be accepted. You will receive a grade of zero (‘0’) for each uncompleted problem set. See FAQs on course website for more information about the problem sets and SPSS.

The **final project** will involve you gathering, coding, and analyzing data. More detailed instructions on this project are posted on the Blackboard course website under ‘Final Project.’ See FAQs on course website for more information about the final project.

The **final exam** is cumulative and will involve interpretation of statistical output. See FAQs on course website for more information about the final exam.

Course grades will be calculated according to the following scale: A=90.0-100.0; B=80.0-89.9999; C=70.0-79.9999; D=60.0-69.9999; F=less than 60. Please note there is no rounding on overall course grades. **PLEASE NOTE: anyone asking Dr. Ulbig to calculate his/her grade will be penalized 10 points on his/her overall course grade.** See FAQs on course website for more information about grading and grade reporting.

Classroom Rules of Conduct:

Students are expected to abide by the Classroom Rules of Conduct as outlined by the Dean of Students: <http://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/>. Further, the use of cell phones is completely prohibited in class. See course FAQs for information about in-class behavior, particularly the penalties associated with using phones in class.

Instructor Evaluations:

Students will be given the opportunity to complete a course/instructor evaluation form near the end of the semester. You may also speak directly with Dr. Ulbig or the Chair of the Political Science Department if you have concerns about the quality of instruction you are receiving.

Academic Dishonesty:

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/810213.pdf

Americans with Disabilities Act:

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center . For a complete listing of the university policy, see: http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/811006.pdf and <http://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/StudentGuidelines2010-2012.pdf#page=49>

Religious Holidays:

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: “a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20....” A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/861001.pdf

CLASS SCHEDULE

August 24 - August 25: Getting Started

- Review [Course Syllabus](#) and FAQs
- View Dr. Ulbig's [video introduction](#)
- Take a [tour of the course website](#)
- Create your own [introduction video](#)
- [Get your computer ready](#) for the semester

August 25 by 11:59 PM: ASSIGNMENT DUE

Submit Your [Video Introduction](#)

August 26 - August 28: Overview of the Research Process

Complete [Topic 01: Research Process](#)

August 28 by 11:59 PM: ASSIGNMENT DUE

Submit [Practice Exercise #01 Discussion Board Posts](#)

August 29 - August 30: Measurement

Complete [Topic 02: Measurement](#)

August 30 by 11:59 PM: ASSIGNMENT DUE

Submit [Practice Exercise #02 Quiz](#)

August 31 by NOON (12:00 PM): ****PROBLEM SET #01 DUE****

August 31 - September 6: Introduction to SPSS

Complete [Topic 03: Introduction to SPSS](#)

September 6 by 11:59 PM: ASSIGNMENT DUE

Submit [Practice Exercise #03 Dataset](#)

September 7 - September 8: Frequencies

Complete [Topic 04: Frequencies](#)

September 8 by 11:59 PM: ASSIGNMENT DUE

Submit [Practice Exercise #04 Quiz](#)

September 9 - September 11: Crosstabs

Complete [Topic 05: Crosstabs](#)

September 11 by 11:59 PM: ASSIGNMENT DUE

Submit [Practice Exercise #05 Quiz](#)

September 12 - September 13: Graphically Summarizing Data

Complete [Topic 06: Graphs & Charts](#)

September 14 by NOON (12:00 PM): ****PROBLEM SET #02 DUE****

September 14 - September 22: Measures of Central Tendency

Complete [Topic #07: Measures of Central Tendency & Dispersion](#)

September 22 by 11:59 PM: ASSIGNMENT DUE

Submit [Practice Exercise #07 Quiz](#)

September 23rd by NOON (12:00 PM): ****PROBLEM SET #03 DUE****

September 23 - September 29: Probability & the Normal Curve

Complete [Topic 08: Probability & the Normal Curve](#)

September 29 by 11:59 PM: ASSIGNMENT DUE

Submit [Practice Exercise #08 Quiz](#)

September 29 - October 2: Z-Scores & the Normal Curve

Complete [Topic 09: Z-Scores & the Normal Curve](#)

October 2 by 11:59 PM: ASSIGNMENT DUE

Submit [Practice Exercise #09 Quiz](#)

October 3 by NOON (12:00 PM): ****PROBLEM SET #04 DUE****

October 3 - October 6: Sampling & Confidence Intervals

Complete [Topic 10: Confidence Intervals](#)

October 6 by 11:59 PM: ASSIGNMENT DUE

Submit [Practice Exercise #10 Quiz](#)

October 7 - October 11: One Sample t-Test

Complete [Topic 11: One Sample t-Test](#)

October 11 by 11:59 PM: ASSIGNMENT DUE

Submit [Practice Exercise #11 Quiz](#)

October 12 by NOON (12:00 PM): ****PROBLEM SET #05 DUE****

October 12 - October 16: Comparing Two Independent Samples

Complete [Topic 12: Independent Samples t-Test](#)

October 16 by 11:59 PM: ASSIGNMENTS DUE

Submit [Practice Exercise #12A Quiz](#) and [Practice Exercise #12B Quiz](#)

October 17 - October 18: Comparing Two Dependent Samples

Complete [Topic 13: Dependent Sample t-Test](#)

October 18 by 11:59 PM: ASSIGNMENT DUE

Submit [Practice Exercise #13 Quiz](#)

October 19 by NOON (12:00 PM): ****PROBLEM SET #06 DUE****

October 19 - October 25: Crosstabs & the Chi-Square Statistic

Complete [Topic 14: Crosstabs & the Chi-Square Statistic](#)

October 25 by 11:59 PM: ASSIGNMENT DUE

Submit [Practice Exercise #14 Quiz](#)

October 26 by NOON (12:00 PM): ****PROBLEM SET #07 DUE****

October 26 - November 1: Crosstabs & Additional Measures of Association

Complete [Topic 15: Crosstabs & Additional Measures of Association](#)

November 1 by 11:59 PM: ASSIGNMENT DUE

Submit [Practice Exercise #15 Quiz](#)

November 2 by NOON (12:00 PM): **PROBLEM SET #08 DUE**

November 2 - November 6: Scatterplots & Correlations

Complete [Topic 16: Scatterplots & Correlations](#)

November 6 by 11:59 PM: ASSIGNMENT DUE

Submit [Practice Exercise #16 Quiz](#)

November 7 - November 10: Bivariate Regression

Complete [Topic 17: Bivariate Regression](#)

November 10 by 11:59 PM: ASSIGNMENT DUE

Submit [Practice Exercise #17 Quiz](#)

November 11 by NOON (12:00 PM): **PROBLEM SET #09 DUE**

November 11 - November 17: Multivariate Regression

Complete [Topic 18: Multivariate Regression](#)

November 17 by 11:59 PM: ASSIGNMENT DUE

Submit [Practice Exercise #18 Quiz](#)

November 18 by NOON (12:00 PM): **PROBLEM SET #10 DUE**

November 18 - December 2: Final Project Workdays

Work on [Final Project - Presentation](#) and [Final Project - Analytical Report](#)

December 2 by NOON (12:00 PM): ASSIGNMENT DUE

Submit [Final Project - Presentation First Draft](#) and [Final Project - Analytical Report First Draft](#)

December 2 - December 5: Final Project Revisions

Work on revisions to [Final Project - Presentation](#) and [Final Project - Analytical Report](#)

December 5 by NOON (12:00 PM): **FINAL PROJECT PRESENTATION VIDEO DUE**

December 7 by NOON (12:00 PM): **FINAL PROJECT ANALYTICAL REPORT & REVISION MEMO DUE**

December 12 (12:00 AM) - December 15 (12:00 PM): COMPLETE [FINAL EXAM](#)