

## **Methods in Political Science (LAB)**

POLS 2000-02, Spring 2018

Wednesday 3:45-7:45

Office: McGannon 123

Classroom: McGannon 118

Instructor: Matt Millard

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Office hours: MWF 10:00-10:50, W 2:00-3:30, Thurs, 2:00-3:30

### Course Description

This course is designed to introduce students to the scientific study of politics. This course is designed to supplement PolS 2000 (Methods in Political Science). Students will learn how to conduct research in political science and, more broadly, in the social sciences. Students will be exposed to the various resources needed to make them successful in conducting inquiries into political and social phenomenon. Students will also learn how to use the statistical computing package known as Stata and how to use this program to answer basic questions about the social sciences.

### Requirements

*Class participation/attendance (10%):* Students are expected to attend class and are encouraged to participate in discussions. I will periodically call on students and if students fail to participate, their grades will suffer. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class and occasionally at the end of class. Students who show up to class more than ten minutes late will be marked as absent. This will be deducted from the student's final grade. Four points will be deducted per missed class from this total grade of 100. Legitimate excuses, such as family emergencies, sickness, or school-sanctioned events (such as participation in sports) do not constitute a missed class and will not be deducted from the student's attendance, provided it is cleared prior to the class meeting or, in the event of sickness, there is a written doctor's excuse. Students who miss class for one of these excused reasons will be **REQUIRED** to email me the reason why they were absent and should include in the subject line of the email "yourlastname-absence" if they wish it to count as excused. Students are also highly encouraged to speak with the professor before or after class regarding their absence. Students are allowed to miss three classes without a grade penalty. **It is impossible to do well in this course if you do not attend class!** Due to the difficult nature of the subject matter contained in this class, I will require every student to meet with me during the semester so that I may review their research presentation and to offer advice/direction. Failure to attend these pre-assigned meetings is mandatory and students who do not attend the out-of-class meeting will have five points deducted from their attendance grade.

*Lab Assignments (5 @ 3% each):* Students will be assigned a grade for the completion of assignments in the Methods Lab (POLS 2000-Lab). Each student should be enrolled in the Wednesday lab session. You will gain hands on experience using STATA software. This is a statistical package that will allow you to manipulate and analyze data. All labs will be started

with a brief introduction to the topic/skills you will need to complete the exercises. You will turn in the completed assignments at the start of the following lab session. The computer lab will be available during the 150 minute class period and I reserved the lab for additional lab time. This will allow you to complete the assignment in the week between lab meetings. Late labs will not be accepted and you will receive a zero for the lab. **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL YOU BE ALLOWED TO MAKEUP A LAB, EVEN IF YOU HAVE AN EXCUSED ABSENCE!**

### Grading Scale

All assignments will be graded out of 100-points. Letter grades for the final grades for this course will be assigned as follows:

A+	97-100
A	93-86.9
A-	90-92.9
B+	87-89.9
B	83-86.9
B-	80-82.9
C+	77-79.9
C	73-76.9
C-	70-72.9
D	60-69.9

I DO NOT “BUMP” UP GRADES, SO DON’T ASK! If you get an 89.4 average in this course, you get a B+ (it rounds down to an 89). If you get an 89.5 average, you will be given an A- (it rounds up).

### Classroom Policies

As college students, you are expected to conduct yourself in a professional manner. Classroom policies are set for the benefit of not only yourself, but also the other students enrolled in this course. The policies set below are designed to facilitate the learning environment and to ensure that professionalism is maintained at all times. The following are some (though not all) of the things that are expected of you:

*Computers:* Students are expected to attend the labs once a week and pay attention. Students will then work on problem sets in class on the provided computers. It is advised that students take notes on paper and for computer code to take notes within the Stata environment.

*Emailing:* When emailing the professor, students must write a formal, grammatically correct email. This means having a subject line title, a greeting, and a salutation (your name), as well as correct punctuation, etc. This is designed to familiarize students with the correct way to communicate in the “real” world (i.e.-how you would send an email to your boss at work).

**Students who send an email without a subject line, a greeting (Professor Millard, Mr. Millard, Professor, etc.), or a salutation (just your name is fine) will not receive a response from me and I will not read their email.**

*Cell phones:* Students are prohibited from using their phones for texting, browsing the internet, or making phone calls once class has begun. The use of cellular phones during a

test/quiz in class, even if used only for the purpose of checking the time, will be considered cheating and will be referred to the dean's office.

*Newspapers/magazines, etc.:* Students are prohibited from reading non-course related materials during class.

*Missed assignments:* As college students, you are expected to conduct yourself in a professional manner, just as you would do for a job. **THIS MEANS TURNING IN ASSIGNED WORK BY THE DEADLINE, SHOWING UP TO CLASS, AND, IN THE EVENT YOU CANNOT MAKE A DEADLINE OR MISS A TEST, YOU MUST INFORM ME BEFORE, NOT AFTER, THE FACT.** This means you should meet with me face-to-face or send me an email with ADEQUATE prior warning for me to either approve or deny your request. Failure to do so means that the student will not be permitted to make-up any missed assignments. I will not excuse absences that are not documented and are not cleared with me before the class actually meets. Quizzes cannot be retaken.

*Academic Integrity:* As with all classroom policy, the university's policy with regards to submitted work by students will be followed to the letter. All work that is submitted will be checked for plagiarism. For more on the institution's policy regarding academic integrity, please visit:

[https://www.slu.edu/Documents/provost/academic\\_affairs/Academic\\_Integrity\\_Policy\\_FINAL\\_6-26-15.pdf](https://www.slu.edu/Documents/provost/academic_affairs/Academic_Integrity_Policy_FINAL_6-26-15.pdf)

The school's academic policy covers areas related to falsification, plagiarism, cheating, sabotage, collusion, and concealment. For more on the College of Arts and Science's policy, visit:  
<http://www.slu.edu/x12657.xml>

Basically, use your common sense and do not try to gain an unfair advantage over other students. Violators will be referred for adjudication and investigation through the proper channels.

If you have any questions about plagiarism (intended or unintended) or if you suspect a student of committing plagiarism or cheating, please inform me as quickly as possible, as I take academic integrity very seriously. If you have questions regarding anything related to academic integrity (or anything for that matter!) please don't hesitate to ask me!

### Students with Disabilities

Students who have disabilities are encouraged to contact the professor and inform him at the beginning of the semester (or give adequate prior notice before any academic activity this may affect) so that arrangements can be made for the student's benefit. (I do not need to know what the disability is, just need notification from the Office of Disability Services!) If you suspect you may have a disability or may need an accommodation, please contact the Office of Disability Services at:

<http://www.slu.edu/life-at-slu/student-success-center/disability-services>

The instructor reserves the right to amend, adapt, and adjust this syllabus to the benefit of the students with adequate prior warning.

## Schedule

January 17-Week 1: Computing, Qualtrics, Mechanical Turk

January 24-Week 2: Intro to ANES, GSS, COW intro, and Paul Hensel's IR datasets

January 31-Week 3: Library Talk, Google Scholar, Research

February 7-Week 4: Stata-toy datasets, loading data, data viewer, do files, log files, naming and labeling data

### **Lab assignment 1**

February 14-Week 5: Math lab 1

February 21-Week 6: Stata and Descriptive Stats-Stata Lab 1

### **Lab assignment 2**

February 28-Week 7: Stata and Cleaning Data-Stata Lab 2

March 7-Week 8: Math Lab 2-ANOVA and Regressions

March 14- No class (Spring Break)

March 21-Week 9: Stata Labs 3 & 4

### **Lab assignment 3**

March 28-No class (Easter Break)

April 4-Week 10: No class (conference)

April 11-Week 11: Stata Lab 5

April 18-Week 12: Stata Lab 6

### **Lab assignment 4**

April 25-Week 13: Stata Lab 7

### **Lab assignment 5**

May 2- Week 14: Do your own regression

