

**POL 029: Political Analysis**

<b>Term: 2020 Winter Session</b> <b>Instructor: Staff</b> <b>Language of Instruction: English</b> <b>Classroom: TBA</b> <b>Office Hours: TBA</b>
<b>Class Sessions Per Week: 5</b> <b>Total Weeks: 3</b> <b>Total Class Sessions: 15</b> <b>Class Session Length (minutes): 240</b> <b>Credit Hours: 4</b>

**Course Description:**

This course will introduce the fundamentals of research design and analysis methods in contemporary political science. The course will cover the following topics: the formulation of research topics and research questions, the development of theory and empirically testable hypotheses, the design of data collection activities, and basic qualitative and quantitative data analysis techniques. STATA will be introduced in this course to help students with data analysis. The techniques and skills taught in this course will prepare students to conduct further research in social science.

**Learning Objectives:**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand theories, hypotheses, and methods used in empirical political science research
- Select the proper methods and apply them to political science research questions
- Make data analysis to measure concepts, make comparisons, and draw inferences
- Define causation and the multiple ways of reaching causal inferences
- Use various techniques to analyze political questions in a broader aspect

**Course Materials:**

- *Philip H. Pollock. A STATA Companion to Political Analysis, 2018.*
- *Dimiter Toshkov. Research Design in Political Science, 2016.*



### **Grading Scale:**

**A+: 98%-100%**

**A: 93%-97%**

**A-: 90%-92%**

**B+: 88%-89%**

**B: 83%-87%**

**B-: 80%-82%**

**C+: 78%-79%**

**C: 73%-77%**

**C-: 70%-72%**

**D+: 68%-69%**

**D: 63%-67%**

**D-: 60%-62%**

**F: Below 60%**

### **Course Assignments:**

#### **Problem Sets:**

There will be 8 problem sets, which are completed by hand or STATA, depending on the assignment. The following topics will be tested: identifying and evaluating claims, concepts and measurement, data collection, causality, theory evaluation, statistics and regression. The problem sets will give you opportunities to enhance their math and analysis skills. You should follow the deadlines set by the instructor. Late submission will lose some points.

#### **Research Project:**

You are responsible to select a social science research question of interest, design and execute and experiment, testing a hypothesis about that question, and conduct an analysis of their results. The project should be 8-10 pages in length and contain the following parts: literature review, hypotheses, methods, and results. The rubric and sample paper will be distributed by the instructor.

#### **Quizzes:**

There will be 6 quizzes this semester. Each quiz will test your understanding of the readings and other materials used in class. There will be no make-ups for quizzes for any reason. All of the quizzes will be closed book.

**Final Exam:**

The final exam will be in-class, cumulative and close-book. The final exam aims to test your understanding of all the concepts covered in class and your ability to do data analysis. Note that the final will not be taken during the normal class times. Exact time and location for final will be announced later.

**Course Assessment:**

Problem sets	30%
Research Project	20%
Quizzes	15%
Final Exam	35%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Academic Integrity:**

Students are encouraged to study together, and to discuss lecture topics with one another, but all other work should be completed independently.

Students are expected to adhere to the standards of academic honesty and integrity that are described in the Shanghai Normal University's *Academic Conduct Code*. Any work suspected of violating the standards of the *Academic Conduct Code* will be reported to the Dean's Office. Penalties for violating the *Academic Conduct Code* may include dismissal from the program. All students have an individual responsibility to know and understand the provisions of the *Academic Conduct Code*.

**Special Needs or Assistance:**

Please contact the Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material. Our goal is to help you learn, not to penalize you for issues which mask your learning.

**Course Schedule:**

Week	Topics	Activities
1		



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduction to the course</li><li>• Introduction: designing research in political</li><li>• Concept specification in political science research</li><li>• Typologies in social inquiry</li><li>• Measurement: Concepts in Practice</li><li>• Introduction to STATA: data management; variables</li><li>• Measuring and describing variables/ central tendency and dispersion</li><li>• Introduction to STATA: central tendency and dispersion</li><li>• Tabulation and visualization</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Quiz 1 and 2</li><li>▪ Problem set 1</li><li>▪ Problem set 2</li><li>▪ Problem set 3</li></ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Description and evidence gathering</li><li>• Translating Texts into Interpretations and Numbers</li><li>• Sampling and Representativeness</li><li>• From Description to Causation</li><li>• Causality: Developing Explanations</li><li>• Theory Development and Hypothesis Generation</li><li>• Case Studies and Case Comparisons</li><li>• STATA demonstration: basic comparisons between groups</li><li>• Causal Mechanisms</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Quiz 3</li><li>▪ Quiz 4</li><li>▪ Problem set 4</li><li>▪ Problem set 5</li><li>▪ Problem set 3</li><li>▪ Research project</li></ul>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Statistical Inference</li><li>• STATA demonstration: controlled comparisons and statistical inference</li><li>• Correlation and linear regression</li><li>• STATA demonstration: bivariate regression</li><li>• Multiple regression</li><li>• Interactions in. Multiple regression</li><li>• STATA demonstration: multiple regression</li><li>• Course Warp-up</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Quiz 5</li><li>▪ Quiz 6</li><li>▪ Problem set 7</li><li>▪ Problem set 8</li><li>▪ Final exam</li></ul>