

Syllabus

INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH METHODS

POL 242Y-Y

Summer 2008

Monday and Wednesday 6-8 p.m.
Room: FE 36

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Office hours: 4:30-5:30 p.m. Monday and Wednesday or by appointment

Course webpage: <http://individual.utoronto.ca/ikatcha1/POL242Y.htm>

This course provides introduction to research methods that are employed in political science. The goal of this course is to acquaint students with basic concepts and tools of political analysis. The main focus is on quantitative methods. The course emphasizes practical application of statistical and other research methods and interpretation of statistical results from a political science perspective. A variety of examples from political science and contemporary politics will be provided to help in gaining better understanding of quantitative research methods. Students will learn how to conduct statistical analyses of survey data using SPSS. Additional information will be posted on the course website.

Tutorials: Tutorials will be held in the room FE 36 after each lab assignment:

5-6 p.m. & 8-9p.m on Mondays by Jennifer Hove j.hove@utoronto.ca

3-5p.m. on Tuesdays by Mike Painter-Main m.painter.main@utoronto.ca

Required Texts:

Philip H. Pollock III. *The Essentials of Political Analysis*, 2 ed, CQ Press, 2005

Philip H. Pollock III. *An SPSS Companion to Political Analysis*, 2 ed., CQ Press, 2006

Recommended:

Earl R. Babbie, *The Practice of Social Research*, 11th Edition Wadsworth, 2007

Format and Requirements: This course will be taught in a lecture and laboratory format. Students are expected to complete 8 lab assignments, mid-term test and final test, and present a short research paper.

Prerequisite: A course in POL

Grading:

Course grade will be based on lab exercises, midterm and final exams and weighted as follows:

Midterm test	20%
Final test	20%
Lab exercises	30%
Research paper	20%
Class participation	10%

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to uphold the standards of academic integrity and university policies on plagiarism. Violations including cheating during examinations and representing published or unpublished work of someone else's as your own will be accordingly prosecuted.

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

Extensions and Penalties

Late lab assignments will incur 2% penalties per day of lateness reduction in marks. Late research paper will incur 5% penalties per day of lateness reduction in marks. Short extensions might be granted in case of documented medical and other emergencies.

Course Schedule**May 12 Introduction: Research Methods in Political Science**

Pollock, Introduction

Babbie, 1. Human Inquiry and Science; 2. Paradigms, Theory, and Social Research; 3. The Ethics and Politics of Social Research.

May 14 Measurement and Variables

Pollock, The Measurement

Babbie, 4. Research Design; 5. Conceptualization, Operationalization, and Measurement.

May 21 Data Lab #1

Pollock, Introduction to SPSS

Lab Assignment #1 Measurement of Variables

May 26 Describing Variables. Hypotheses Testing

Pollock, Explanations and Hypotheses

Pollock, Describing Variables; Guidelines of Description

Babbie, 14. Quantitative Data Analysis

May 28 Data Lab #2

Pollock, (SPSS Guide) 2. Descriptive Statistics

Lab Assignment #2 : Descriptive Statistics and Hypotheses Testing

June 2 Cross-Tabulation Analysis; Making Comparisons; Controlled Comparisons

Pollock, Making Comparisons; Graphing Relationships and Describing Patterns. The “How Else?” Question: Making Controlled Comparisons.

June 4 Data Lab # 3

Pollock, (SPSS Guide) 3. Making Comparisons; 4. Transforming Variables in SPSS; 5. Making Controlled Comparisons

Lab Assignment #3: Cross-Tabulation Analysis

June 9 Survey Research; Sampling and Inference

Pollock, Sampling and Inference

Babbie, 7. The Logic of Sampling; 9. Survey Research.

June 11 Tests of Significance

Pollock, Tests of Significance; Statistical Significance

McCloskey, Deirdre. "The Insignificance of Statistical Significance," *Scientific American* (April 1995): 32-33

June 16 Data Lab #4

Pollock, (SPSS Guide) 6. Making Inferences about Sample Means

Lab Assignment #4 : Tests of Statistical Significance

June 18 Research paper overview. Midterm review session

Pollock (SPSS Guide) 11. Doing Your Own Political Analysis: A Practical Guide

Babbie, 17. Reading and Writing Social Research

June 23 Midterm test

June 25 Measures of Association

Pollock, Measures of Association

Babbie, 16. Statistical Analyses

July 2 Data Lab #5

Pollock, (SPSS Guide) 7. Chi-square and Measures of Association

Lab Assignment #5: Chi-Square test

July 7 Correlation

Pollock, Correlation

July 9 Data Lab #6

Pollock (SPSS Guide), 8. Correlation

Lab Assignment #6: Correlation

July 14 Bivariate Linear Regression

Pollock, Bi-Variate Linear Regression

Pollock (SPSS Guide), 8. Regression

July 16 Data Lab #7

Pollock (SPSS Guide), 8. Regression

Lab Assignment #7 Linear regression

July 21 Dummy Variables; Multiple Regression

Pollock, Dummy Variable Regression; Multiple Regression

July 23 Data Lab # 8

Pollock, (SPSS Guide) 8. Regression; 9 Dummy Variables and Interaction Effects

Lab Assignment #8: Dummy variables; Multiple regression

July 28 Logistic Regression

Pollock, Logistic Regression

Pollock, (SPSS Guide) 10. Logistic Regression

July 30 Review Session

Papers are due

August 6 Final Test (Take Home)