

POSC 230 Methods of Political Research

Locations and Times:

WCC 235-- MWF 4a MW 1-2:10 F 1:50 - 2:50 [REMOTE ONLY] Except Week 1 when Monday is like Friday

Instructor Greg Marfleet, gmarflee@carleton.edu

Office: Willis 406, x4116

Office hours: Monday and Wednesday 7:30 to 9:30 online using Zoom by Appointment

Texts and Tools

Paul M. Kellstedt and Guy D Whitten. 2018. "The Fundamentals of Political Science Research" 3rd Edition. Cambridge Press.

APSA Style Manual for Political Science (link -- the file is also linked below if this url fails)

The POSC230 R Workspace file is in the Google Shared Drive

The following Web resources are going to be essential for work with R.

Rstudio Cloud - I'm going to require all students to work in R via Rstudio Cloud served via a web-based platform. This situation while not ideal (since it requires an internet connection to do your work) is much more efficient for interactive feedback when not in a F2F setting. You may have already used this application in MATH 215.

You will find the online guide handy guide to RStudio Cloud here: <https://rstudio.cloud/learn/guide>

LINK FOR OUR POSC230 SHARED RStudio Cloud Space [LINK HERE]

Follow this link and create a new project (you should eventually be able to see all of the members of the class in the projects and members list). Your project space is private unless you share it. As Admin and Moderator, the prof and prefect do have access to your project space so they can help you solve issues during the term.

NOTE: For students who may have internet issues you may opt out of using RStudio Cloud and instead use a local installation of R and R Studio. In this case I would advise you to do your work off line and then upload things like working scripts to your Cloud space when you have a connection). Please chat about this with me beforehand!

Installing R and RStudio on a personal machine is a two step process. First Get R, then add R Studio.

Installing R If you want to install R on your own machine you can find it here: : <http://www.r-project.org/>

Follow the download link. Choose a download site (Iowa State is fast) and the appropriate package for your OS (windows, Mac, Linux!?)

Installing R Studio: <http://www.rstudio.com/>

Follow the links to the free open-source desktop download. Its generally easiest to use the installer for your OS.

Other Sites and Sources

QUICK-R: <http://www.statmethods.net/index.html>

This site essentially serves as an alternative to an R-based methods textbook.

The Quick-R site has some great copy and paste code (all you need to do is use your own data frames and variables) to perform most of the things we'll do in class. They have a very simple diagnostic chapter too!

Lynda Videos in particular R Statistics Essential Training

Carleton Subscribes to some on-line course materials.

For us the useful one is an introduction to R and R-Studio called "R Statistics Essential Training". The video includes steps for installation and use of R and R studio and covers basic stats (a great refresher for the stuff you did in 215 or if you skipped 215 with AP stats.

Cyclismo, R Tutorial <http://www.cyclismo.org/tutorial/R/>

This is a tutorial put together by a faculty member at University of Georgia's Math Department. It has many of the procedures we encounter in this course.

Google's R Style Guide: <https://google-styleguide.googlecode.com/svn/trunk/Rguide.xml>

This is a bit more advanced, but once we get comfortable writing R scripts we should begin to think about following good norms of format and style for ease of understanding (as the guy who will read your scripts, this would be a nice thing).

Handy table of R commands: [Link to PDF](#)

Grading

Research Elements Weekly Short Papers X 9 (5 pts each) -- 45 point total

R-Labs x 9 (5pts Each) - 45 points total

Final Research Paper with Data Analysis -- 25 points

Final Days Quick Presentation -- 5 points

Final Grade is total score is out of 120 points as a percentage

Weekly Course Plan

One of the challenges of this term is determining how much synchronous content (where we actually meet live in person online) and or asynchronous content (where you work on your own) to include.

Asynchronous Elements

Weekly Reading and Lecture Content, Research Elements Short Paper (RESP)

Weekly Research Project and R-based Lab write-ups (RLAB)

Note: RESP and RLAB papers are due the evening before we meet for your NEXT class session. So for the Monday group, all assignments are Due Sunday night by midnight, for the Wednesday group, all assignments are due by Tuesday at midnight and for the Friday group all assignments are due by midnight on Thursday.

Final Research Paper - Due the by the end of the exam period by college rule. No late papers will be accepted without approval of the Dean's office and an official extension.

Synchronous Elements of the class

I will divide the class into 3 groups of students.

We will plan to meet during the designated course time either in person in WEITZ 235 (on Monday and Wednesday) or via Zoom on Friday for remote students. The focus of these sessions will be to a) reinforce the lecture and reading content, b) Discuss the RESP paper expectations, c) start the R labs.

13 September - 19 September

Weekly Topic and Readings: The Scientific Study of Politics, Theory and Research Questions

K&W chapter 1 & 2

Marsh, David and Gerry Stoker. 2010. Theory and Methods in Political Science. Chapter 9. "A Skin not a Sweater: Ontology and Epistemology in Political Science".

Lecture 1 Ontology and EpistemologyURL

20 September - 26 September

Weekly Topic and Readings: Causality

K&W chapter 3 & 4

27 September - 3 October

Weekly Topic and Readings: Measurement: Levels, Validity, Reliability

K&W chapter 5 & 6

4 October - 10 October

Weekly Topic and Readings: Sampling and Hypothesis Testing

K&W chapter 7 & 8

11 October - 17 October

Weekly Topic and Readings: OLS regression

K&W chapter 9

18 October - 24 October

Weekly Topic and Readings: Multiple OLS regression

K&W chapter 10

Granato, J., Inglehart, R. and Leblang, D., 1996. The effect of cultural values on economic development: theory, hypotheses, and some empirical tests. *American journal of political science*, pp.607-631. File

25 October - 31 October

Weekly Topic and Readings: Logistic Regression Maximum Likelihood Estimation and Post-estimation Analysis

K&W chapter 12

1 November - 7 November

Weekly Topic and Readings: Regression Diagnostics

K&W chapter 11

8 November - 14 November

Weekly Topic and Readings: Qualitative Methods - Triangulation: Integrating Stats and Cases

Seawright, J. and Gerring, J., 2008. Case selection techniques in case study research: A menu of qualitative and quantitative options. *Political research quarterly*, 61(2), pp.294-308.

Kaarbo, J. and Beasley, R.K., 1999. A practical guide to the comparative case study method in political psychology. *Political psychology*, 20(2), pp.369-391.

15 November - 21 November

Wrap-up and group workshops

Students should be prepared on these final days to share your screen and/or show your fellow researchers your main results table that includes a multiple regression or logit model and describe what you've found in a 5 minutes info talk. Since we do not have class on Friday I will ask our Friday student to visit the F2F group via Zoom and screen share on either Monday or Wednesday.

Final Research Paper with Data Analysis Due: Final Day of Exam Period