Instructor: Jason Kehrberg, M.A.  Email: jkehrberg@uky.edu
Class Time: M, W, F 10:00am-10:50am in CP (Chemistry-Physics) 103
Office Hours: 1618 POT, W 8:30am-9:30am, Th 11:00am-Noon, and by appointment.

Course Summary. This course reviews common approaches to conducting political science research. Political scientists use a wide range of approaches and tools to examine political phenomena, but this class focuses upon statistics and their use in political research. We will cover four topics: theory, hypotheses, and research design; measurement of political concepts; descriptive inference; and statistical inference. The goal of the course is to allow students to examine political research and to develop a simple research design.

Textbooks. There are two required texts for this course.


Attendance. I will take attendance every class and attendance is part of your grade (see section on grades). Each student is allowed to miss two days without reason. These two days do not require documentation. Any absences beyond two days will result in a subtraction of points from the student’s grade for attendance. I will require written documentation for excused absences beyond the two days. The following are acceptable reasons: serious illness, illness or death of family member, University-related trips (S.R. 5.2.4.2.C), and major religious holidays. Students are responsible to notify me within a week afterwards to make up any assignments or tests (S.R. 5.2.4.2.D). The instructor has the option to verify all written excuses.

Grading.

- Midterm Exam: 30%
- Final Exam: 30%
- Homework Assignments: 20%
- Article Critiques: 10%
- Class Participation and Attendance: 10%

Note on homework assignments: Feel free to work with your fellow classmates on the Microcase assignments. The final product (what you turn in to the instructor) has to be your own work. All homework assignments are due the Friday of the week after they are assigned by the beginning of class.

Note on late assignments: I do not accept late assignments without a written excuse (see attendance policy). All homework assignments are due at the beginning of the class. I do not accept homework assignments through email, only in person during class.
**Academic Honesty.** Cheating and plagiarism are unacceptable. A student found cheating or plagiarizing may receive an E for the course and could be recommended for academic suspension or be expelled from the University.

**Incompletes.** I do not give incompletes, except for University approved reasons. See school guidelines.

**Students with Disabilities.** Please inform the instructor at the beginning of the semester if you need assistance so that adequate arrangements can be made.

**Introduction:**
8/23 & 8/25: Introduction, JR chapters 1 & 2

**Theory and Hypothesis:**
8/28 & 8/30: JR chapter 4
9/1 & 9/4: Class is canceled
9/6: Homework Assignment #1 due on 9/11

**Research Design:**
9/8 - 9/13: JR chapter 3

**Measurement:**
9/15 to 9/18: JR chapter 6

**Direct vs. Indirect Observation**
9/20 & 9/22: JR chapter 7

**Document Analysis**
9/25 & 9/27: JR chapter 8

**Sampling**
9/29 & 10/2: JR chapter 9

**Survey Research**
10/4 to 10/9: JR chapter 10
10/6 Fall Break – Class Canceled
10/11

10/13: Midterm Review
10/16: Midterm

**Introduction to SPSS**
10/18: PP Getting Started and Chapter 1
Univariate Analysis
  10/20 & 10/23: JR chapter 11, PP chapter 2 (Homework #2 due on 10/27)

Descriptive Statistics
  10/25 & 10/27: PP chapter 2

Crosstabulation
  10/30 – 11/3: JR chapter 12, PP chapter 3 (Homework #3 due on 11/10)
  Article Review #1 assigned on 11/10 and due on 11/27

Transforming Variables in SPSS and Crosstabulation (Layers)
  11/5 – 11/10: PP chapters 4 & 5 (Homework #4, Chapter 4, due on 11/13)

Statistical Significance
  11/13 – 11/17: JR chapter 12, PP chapters 6 & 7 (Homework #5, Chapter 6, due on 11/22)

Difference of Means, Anova
  11/20 & 11/22: JR chapter 12 (Homework #6, Chapter 5, due on 11/27)
  Class Cancelled on 11/24 (Thanksgiving Break)

Regression
  11/27 & 11/29: JR chapter 12
  Article Review #2 assigned on 11/27 and due on 12/8

Multiple Regression
  12/1 – 12/6: JR chapter 13, PP chapter 8
  12/8: Review and Catch-up Day

Final Exam: 12/13 (Wednesday) at 10:30 am.