2016

393 Advanced Political Analysis

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Recommended Citation
Mariani, Mack, "393 Advanced Political Analysis" (2016). Political Science Syllabi Spring 2016. 6.
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POLI 393: ADVANCED POLITICAL ANALYSIS
SPRING 2016 - XAVIER UNIVERSITY
MWF 11:00 am – 11:50 am, Hailstones #4

Professor Mack Mariani
E-mail: marianim@xavier.edu
Office Hours: MWF 12:00-3:00 (by appointment)

Office: 710 Schott Hall
Cell: (513) 508-6849
Office Phone: (513) 745-2044

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will introduce students to the basic elements of statistical analysis and provide students with the opportunity to gain the knowledge and skills needed to apply quantitative methods to political questions. In this course, we will use quantitative methods to address significant questions facing the discipline, including questions related to American politics, comparative politics and international relations. Over the course of the semester, we will also consider how quantitative and qualitative analysis contributes to the development, articulation and assessment of political theories, and the value and limitations of the scientific method in the social sciences. The first half of the course will focus on teaching basic quantitative methods used by political scientists, and training students to construct databases, analyze data, and prepare papers for presentation and/or publication. In the second half of this course, students will learn the basics of qualitative research and then put their knowledge into practice by gathering, analyzing and incorporating quantitative or qualitative data into their own research projects.

This course qualifies as a social science electives course in the core curriculum. As a social science electives course, this course will provide you the opportunity to study human behavior and action in a systematic, rigorous, evidence based, generalizing, objective, and cumulative way. The course will require you to apply the scientific method, using qualitative and quantitative techniques, to study how people behave and act as individuals, in groups, and in society. In this course, you will analyze social issues using scientific research conducted with diverse populations in the United States and the world. You will become better able to describe the role and functions of social institutions, explain human behavior and relationships within complex social systems, and critically analyze social science issues within a larger historical and global context.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course is part of the Xavier Core Curriculum, which aims to develop people of learning and reflection, integrity and achievement, in solidarity for and with others. It addresses the following core learning objectives at the introductory level:

• Students recognize and cogently discuss significant questions in the social sciences (LO 1a);
• Students use quantitative data to examine the diverse, complex and interdependent nature of people in the world (LO 5a);
• Students describe and examine the multifaceted character of society and how the inclusion of different perspectives can influence one’s worldview (LO 4a);

This course also serves as an elective course for the political science major and minor. The course meets the following political science learning objectives:

• Students engage key concepts, theoretical frameworks, and analytical methods in American, comparative and/or international politics;
• Students interrogate the assumptions underlying assertions about justice, fairness, security, war, peace, stability, development, conflict, and/or other political ideas and issues; and
• Students relate theoretical knowledge to empirical observations.
OFFICE HOURS AND COMMUNICATION

My office is located at Schott #710. I am available to meet most Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays between 12:00 noon and 3:00 pm. Please talk to me after class, e-mail me or text me to make an appointment. I am always available by cell phone (513-508-6849) or e-mail if you want to discuss something or set up a time outside of my office hours to meet. If you text me, please be sure to include your name at the end of the text. To contact me by e-mail, I prefer that you use my Xavier E-mail (marianim@xavier.edu). Please do not send important or time-sensitive messages on Canvas (though you can free to leave comments there).

BOOKS


The following items should be purchased together in the CQ Bundle (ISBN 978-1-5063-3644-2):
- Philip H. Pollock III, *An SPSS Companion to Political Analysis, 5th Edition*
- CQ Press, IBM/SPSS Student Version; NOTE: It is important that you purchase this particular (5th edition) bundle and that the books be new, not used.

GRADING POLICIES

Your final score in the class will be based on your performance on the following assignments/requirements:
- 20% Essentials Assignments
- 20% Companion Assignments
- 20% Test #1
- 20% Political Analysis Project
- 05% Conference/Presentation
- 15% Final Exam

The following point totals are needed to secure the following grades:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Essentials/Companion/Qualitative Assignments</th>
<th>Political Analysis Project</th>
<th>Conference/Presentation</th>
<th>Final Exam</th>
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**Essentials/Companion/Qualitative Assignments** – Students should expect to complete one to two assignments per week. Assignments should be handed in on paper. If you are not going to be attending class, you may upload your assignment to canvas prior to class in order to avoid the late penalty.

**Project/Applied Political Analysis** – Students will produce a political analysis that incorporates qualitative or quantitative methods. Students may choose to incorporate the analysis into an existing paper or project or conduct preliminary research for a new project. All students are required to present their projects. There are three options for presentation: the Celebration of Student Research and Creativity (sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences), the All Politics is Local Conference at Walsh University, or an in-class presentation during week 17.

**Late Papers and Assignments** – Late papers and assignments will receive a one letter grade penalty (An A becomes a B and so on). Papers and assignments that are more than one week late will receive a two letter grade penalty or more.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic/Reading</th>
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</table>
| Week 1 | January 11: Course Syllabus  
January 13: Essentials, Chapter 1: The Definition and Measurement of Concepts  
January 15: Companion, Getting Started & Companion, Chapter 1: Introduction to SPSS |
| Week 2 | January 18: *Martin Luther King Day, No Class*  
January 20: Essentials, Chapter 2: Measuring and Describing Variables  
January 22: Companion, Chapter 2: Descriptive Statistics  
*No Class on January 22. Watch Video Lecture on Canvas.* |
| Week 3 | January 25: No Class  
January 27: Essentials, Chapter 3: Proposing Explanations, Framing Hypo., Making Comparisons  
January 29: Companion, Chapter 3: Transforming Variables |
| Week 4 | February 1: Review Chapter 3  
February 3: Essentials, Chapter 4: Research Design and the Logic of Control  
February 5: Companion, Chapter 4: Making Comparisons |
| Week 5 | February 8: Review Chapter 4  
February 10: Essentials, Chapter 5: Making Controlled Comparisons  
February 12: Companion, Chapter 5: Making Controlled Comparisons |
| Week 6 | February 15: Review Chapter 5  
February 17: Essentials, Chapter 6: Foundations of Statistical Inference  
February 19: Companion, Chapter 6: Making Inferences About Sample Means |
| Week 7 | February 22: Review Chapter 6  
February 24: Essentials, Chapter 7: Tests of Significance and Measures of Association  
February 26: Companion, Chapter 7: Chi Square and Measures of Association |
| Week 8 | February 29: Review Chapter 7  
March 2: Essentials, Chapter 8: Correlation and Linear Regression  
March 4: Companion, Chapter 8: Correlation and Linear Regression |
| Week 9 | Spring Break (March 7-11). |
| Week 10 | March 14: Review Chapter 8 & Test Review  
March 16: Midterm – In class.  
March 18: Research Questions and Literature Reviews: Readings TBA |
March 23: *Proposal Due* (Class Discussion about Proposals). No Readings.  
March 25: *No Class (Easter Break)* |
| Week 12 | March 28: *No Class (Easter Break)*  
April 1: Presenting Data: Readings TBA |
| Week 13 | April 4: *Research Design Due* (Class Discussion about Designs)  
April 6: Creswell, *Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design*, Ch. 3 (Designing a Qualitative Study)  
April 8: Easter Break, No class |
Week 14  | April 11: Easter Break, No class  
        | April 13: Creswell, *Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design*, Ch. 4 (Five Qualitative Approaches to Inquiry).  
        | April 15: Creswell, *Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design*, Ch. 7 (Data Collection).  

Week 15  | April 18: Creswell, *Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design*, Ch. 8 (Data Analysis and Representation).  
        | April 20: The IRB Process & Ethical Issues in Research; Readings TBA.  
        | April 22: Political Analysis Due  
        | April 23: *All Politics Is Local Conference (Saturday)*  

Week 16  | April 25: Presentations  
        | April 27: Presentations  
        | April 29: Presentations  

Week 17  | May 6: Final Exam (10:00 am to 11:50 am)  

**ACADEMIC SUPPORT**

**Students with Disabilities** - Any student in need of accommodation based on the impact of a documented disability should notify the course instructor and contact Cassandra Jones in the Learning Assistance Center at 513-745-3280 or e-mail jonesc20@xavier.edu to coordinate reasonable accommodations.

**Writing Center** - The Writing Center offers free one-on-one tutoring on writing assignments for all Xavier students. The Writing Center is located in the Conaton Learning Commons room 400. http://www.xavier.edu/writingcenter/

**Learning Assistance Center** - The Learning Assistance Center (LAC) provides support services to facilitate learning. The LAC has two main purposes: tutoring and disability services. The tutoring services include subject specific tutoring, drop-in sessions, study skills assistance, and Supplemental Instruction (SI). For students with documented disabilities, services include accommodations such as extended time on exams, reduced distraction testing environment, note-taking assistance, and assistive technology. Services are provided in a positive and encouraging environment, which promotes appreciation for diversity and cura personalis. The LAC is located in the Conaton Learning Commons room 514. The web address is: http://www.xavier.edu/lac/.

**UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

**Academic Honesty Policy** - The pursuit of truth demands high standards of personal honesty. Academic and professional life requires a trust based upon integrity of the written and spoken word. Accordingly, violations of certain standards of ethical behavior will not be tolerated at Xavier University. These include theft, cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized assistance in assignments and tests, unauthorized copying of computer software, the falsification of results and material submitted in reports or admission and registration documents, and the falsification of any academic record including letters of recommendation. All work submitted for academic evaluation must be the student's own. Certainly, the activities of other scholars will influence all students. However, the direct and unattributed use of another's efforts is prohibited, as is the use of any work untruthfully submitted as one's own.

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