

POLS 4000: Systematic Analysis

Dr. Keith E. Lee Jr.

Spring 2020

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Office Hours: MWF 10:00-11:20; TR 10:50-11:20

Office: A & S 2-09

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Class Hours: TR 9:30-10:45am

Class Room: A & S 2-54

Course Description¹

Many students often comment, particularly in introductory courses, that they struggle with political science because they do not do well with history. However, political science is more than history, though history certainly informs our discipline, particularly those of us that study American political development. Political science is a social science that makes scientific observations to test hypotheses and propose theories. This course is designed to teach you *how* we test the hypotheses, propose theories, and explain phenomena and give you the requisite skills to conduct your own research.

The course has four components to teach you how to analyze, interpret, and present political science research. First, you will complete four research paper homework assignments to teach you how to draft a complete, coherent, research paper. The second component is in-class lectures and independent readings that will teach you the core terms and concepts needed to conduct research in political science; your knowledge will be assessed on two separate exams. The third component is lab exercises that will teach you how to conduct statistical analysis independently using computer software. Lastly, you will write a research paper building upon the homework assignments above and you will demonstrate your ability to conduct and present independent, original research.

Required Textbook

- Healey, Joseph F. 2016. *The Essentials of Statistics: A Tool for Social Research* 4th Edition

Software

IBM SPSS Statistics Standard GradPack 25 is available on lab and library computers but you can purchase a 6 month license if you wish to have it on a personal computer.

¹I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus at any time. Students will be notified when changes are made.

Course Objectives

By the end of the semester you will be able to:

- interpret statistical analysis;
- propose and test hypotheses;
- recall key concepts and definitions;
- analyze data using statistical software;
- synthesize research in the form of a literature review;
- present independent research in the form of a research paper.

Course Assignments

Research Paper Assignments (Due Dates Vary):

- Assignment 1: Develop a Research Question (Due January 19 by 9:00pm)
- Assignment 2: The Literature Review (Due February 9 by 9:00pm)
- Assignment 3: Research Design (Due March 22 by 9:00pm)
- Assignment 4: Analysis & Assessment (Due April 12 by 9:00pm)
- Assignment 5: Compiled Paper (Due April 26 by 9:00pm)

Homework Problems (Due Dates Vary): You will be required to answer a series of questions at the end of each chapter.

Quizzes (Dates Vary): I will give a number of quizzes over the course of the semester to assess student progress and content retention.

Exam #1 (January 28): The first exam will be a one hour in-class exam consisting of short answer and essay questions designed to assess your ability to recall key terms and concepts from Healey Chs. 1-5.

Exam #2 (March 3): The second exam will be a one hour in-class exam consisting of short answer and essay questions designed to assess your ability to recall key terms and concepts from Healey Chs. 6-9.

Research Presentation (PowerPoint due April 12 by 9:00pm): You will give a 8-10 minute presentation describing your research question, relevant literature, analysis, interpretation, and concluding remarks.

Final Exam (April 28 at 8:00am): Two hour comprehensive exam covering all material presented in the course. 50% of the exam will be from chapters 10-13, 25% from chapters 1-5, and 25% from chapters 6-9.

Grading

Assignment	Value	Letter Grade	Range
Final Exam	25%	A	90-100%
Research Paper	20%	B	80-89.999%
Homework	15%	C	70-79.999%
Exam 1	10%	D	60-69.999%
Exam 2	10%	F	0-59.999%
Exam 3	10%		
Presentation	5%		
Quizzes	5%		
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Total	100%		

Paper Breakdown	Value
Research Question	2%
Literature Review	3%
Research Design	3%
Analysis & Assessment	5%
Compiled Paper	7%
Total	20%

Course Policies:

- **Office Hours and Contact:** Office hours are stated on the front page of the syllabus. Students should use my email address on the first page of the syllabus to contact me.
- **Late Policy:** No assignments will be accepted after the due date.
- **Attendance and Absences:** There is not an attendance policy for this course, however it is the student's responsibility to keep up with the course schedule.
- **Academic Dishonesty:** Cheating, including plagiarism, will result in an "F" in the course. This class will use plagiarism detection via GeorgiaView.
- **Classroom Behavior:** Disruptive behavior will be handled immediately. The first offense will be a warning and you will be asked to leave the class. The second offense will result in a reduction in your final letter grade.
- Please read these additional [common syllabus statements](#) provided by Georgia College.

Class Schedule

*Note: Scheduled readings should be completed prior to class.

Week 1: Course Introduction

- 01/07 Tuesday: Course Syllabus; Prologue in textbook
- 01/09 Thursday: Chapter 1
- Homework: 1.2, 1.4, and 1.6 due 01/12 at 9:00pm

Week 2: Descriptive Statistics and Central Tendency

- 01/14 Tuesday: Chapter 3
- 01/16 Thursday: Chapter 4
- Homework: 2.2, 2.4, 2.12, 3.4, 3.6, 3.10, 3.16 due 01/19 at 9:00pm
- Research Question due 01/19 by 9:00pm

Week 3: Dispersion and the Normal Curve

- 01/21 Tuesday: Chapter 4
- 01/23 Thursday: Chapter 5
- Homework: 4.2, 4.6, 4.12, 4.16, 4.18, 5.2, 5.4, 5.8 due 01/26 at 9:00pm

Week 4: Exam Week

- 01/28 Tuesday: Exam 1
- 01/30 Thursday: The Literature Review

Week 5: Inferential Statistics, Sampling Distribution, and Estimation

- 02/04 Tuesday: Chapter 6 pp. 140-154
- 02/06 Thursday: Chapter 6 pp. 154-170
- Homework 6.2, 6.8, 6.10, 6.14 02/09 at 9:00pm
- Literature Review due 02/09 at 9:00pm

Week 6: Hypothesis Testing: The One-Sample Case

- 02/11 Tuesday: Chapter 7 pp. 176-186
- 02/13 Thursday: Chapter 7 pp. 186-203
- Homework: 7.2, 7.8, 7.12 due 02/16 at 9:00pm

Week 7: Hypothesis Testing: The Two-Sample Case

- 02/18 Tuesday: Chapter 8 pp. 207-218
- 02/20 Thursday: Chapter 8 pp. 219-228
- Homework: 8.2, 8.4, 8.6, 8.16 due 02/23 at 9:00pm

Week 8: Hypothesis Testing: The Analysis of Variance

- 02/25 Tuesday: Chapter 9 pp. 238-247
- 02/27 Thursday: Chapter 9 pp. 247-255
- Homework: 9.2, 9.4, 9.6 due 03/01 at 9:00pm

Week 9: Exam Week

- 03/03 Tuesday: Exam 2
- 03/05 Thursday: No Class - Citadel Symposium on Southern Politics
- Homework: None

Week 10: Hypothesis Testing: Chi Square

- 03/10 Tuesday: Chapter 10 pp. 265-272
- 03/12 Thursday: Chapter 10 pp. 272-283
- Homework: 10.2, 10.4, 10.10, 10.12 due 03/22 at 9:00pm
- Research Design due 03/22 at 9:00pm

Week 11: Spring Break

Week 12: Bivariate Measures of Association: Nominal- and Ordinal-Level Variables

- 03/24 Tuesday: Chapter 11
- 03/26 Thursday: No Class - Model Senate
- Homework: 11.2, 11.4, 11.8, 11.10, 11.12 due 03/29 at 9:00pm

Week 13: Bivariate Measures of Association: Interval-Level Variables

- 03/31 Tuesday: Chapter 12 pp. 328-342
- 04/02 Thursday: Chapter 12 pp. 342-355
- Homework: 12.2, 12.4, 12.10 due 04/05 at 9:00pm

Week 14: Partial Correlation and Multiple Regression

- 04/07 Tuesday: Ch 13 pp. 364-376
- 04/09 Thursday: Ch 13 pp. 376-386
- Homework: 13.2, 13.4, 13.10 due 04/12 at 9:00pm
- Analysis and Assessment due 04/12 at 9:00pm
- PowerPoint Presentation due 04/12 at 9:00pm

Week 15: Presentation Week 1

- 04/14 Tuesday: Presentations 1-6
- 04/16 Thursday: Presentations 7-12
- Homework: Compile Paper

Week 16: Presentation Week 2

- 04/21 Tuesday: Presentations 13-18
- 04/23 Thursday: Presentations 19-24
- Homework: Compile Paper
- Compiled Paper due 04/26 at 9:00pm

Week : Final Exam Week

- 04/28 Tuesday 8:00 - 10:15am