

Computing Methods

Political Science 4010/7010

Instructor: Steven Jokinsky

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Course Location: Naka Hall 144

Meeting Time: Friday 9:00 – 10:15AM/10:30-11:45AM

Office Hours (Zoom): Tuesdays 10:00AM – 1:00PM; Thursday 12:00 – 3:00PM

Course Objective: This course serves as a complement to Political Science 4000/7000, which is an introduction to statistical procedures commonly used to conduct research in the social sciences. To this end, this course will focus on discussing, applying, and extending the issues covered in the weekly lectures. Specifically, students will become more accustomed to the use of statistics software for social science research by primarily using Stata statistical software for the lab exercises and homework assignments. This will involve devising appropriate measurement of political and social concepts, gathering quantitative data of these measures, compiling and managing a dataset, applying the appropriate statistical techniques to both describe the data and test specific hypotheses, and interpreting the outputs of these statistical tests in an appropriate way. Finally, this course will spend many of our lab sessions thinking critically about social science research, including how we may improve on both previously published research and our own original research.

Stata is available on the lab computers and by downloading “Software Anywhere” on your PC or Mac at no additional cost. The material covered in the lab will follow along with the subject matter of PolSc 4000/7000. There will not be any additional materials required for purchase. However, please bring your Agresti textbook (assigned for PolSc 4000/7000) to each lab section. It is a useful reference and we will also occasionally work through practice problems from it.

Course Requirements: The course is graded on a S/U basis only. Your evaluation depends on three factors: attendance, in-lab participation, and homework assignments. You will be assigned 12 homework assignments to monitor and evaluate your progress in the course. However, you will only be required to complete 10 of these assignments in total. If you plan to use one of your skips email me **before** lab the week the assignment is due. Additionally, student attendance and in-lab participation are key components to success in the course and are expected each week. If you need to miss class, email me to discuss how you can make up material and lab activities.

We will have a **take-home final exam** given after the final lab on **December 4** and should be returned no later than **December 10** at **11:59PM**.

Recommended Text: No additional texts required for the lab.

Academic Honesty: Academic integrity is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The

academic community regards breaches of the academic integrity rules as extremely serious matters. Sanctions for such a breach may include academic sanctions from the instructor, including failing the course for any violation, to disciplinary sanctions ranging from probation to expulsion. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, collaboration, or any other form of cheating, consult the course instructor.

Classroom Accommodations: Students with Disabilities: If you anticipate barriers related to the format or requirements of this course, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need to make arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please let me know as soon as possible. If disability related accommodations are necessary (for example, a note taker, extended time on exams, captioning), please establish an accommodation plan with the Disability Center (disabilitycenter@missouri.edu, S5 Memorial Union, 573- 882-4696), and then notify me of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. For other MU resources for persons with disabilities, visit <https://diversity.missouri.edu/offices-centers/accessibility-ada/>

Intellectual Pluralism: The University community welcomes intellectual diversity and respects student rights. Students who have questions or concerns regarding the atmosphere in this class may contact the Departmental Chair or Divisional Director, the Director of the Office of Students Rights and responsibilities (<http://osrr.missouri.edu>), the Office for Civil Rights & Title IX (<https://civilrights.missouri.edu>), or by email at civilrights-titleix@missouri.edu. All students will have the opportunity to submit an anonymous evaluation of the instructor at the end of the course.

Email Policy: I aim to respond to all student email within one business day. I may occasionally respond after hours or on the weekend, but students are cautioned not to expect a response sooner than one business day. Keep track of your assignment deadlines and be sure to email me early enough so that I have time to respond.

Mask Policy: We will all wear face coverings while in the classroom, unless you have a documented exemption due to a disability or medical condition. We will enter the classroom and fill the room starting at the front, filing all the way across a row. When class ends, we will exit the row nearest to the door first; the instructor or TA will give the signal for the next row to exit, in the same manner.