Political Science 300, Introduction to Political Analysis
Fall 2018 Semester
Monday and Wednesday, 1500-1615

Instructor: Dr. Ken Moffett                               Office Location: 3219 Peck Hall
Class Location: 0303 Founders Hall                        Office Phone: (618) 650-2649
Website: http://bb.siue.edu                               E-mail Address: kmoffet@siue.edu

Office Hours: Monday, 1630-1730; Wednesday 1350-1450; and by appointment.

**Course Description** The purpose of this course is to train students how to analyze political phenomena rigorously and scientifically. We will learn varying statistical tools that build on one another to do so. These tools will bring mathematical and analytic rigor to test many underlying explanations. By the end of the course, students will know how to analyze and appropriately test theories that provide explanations for varying political phenomena.

**Assigned Texts** These books are available at Textbook Rental.

Gaubatz, Kurt Taylor 2015. *A Survivor's Guide to R: An Introduction for the Uninitiated.* Thousand Oaks,
        California: Sage/CQ Press.

Imai, Kozuke 2017. *Quantitative Social Science: An Introduction*. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University
        Press.

**Required Software**

Latest Version of R for either Windows or Mac. Freely Available at http://www.r-project.org. This is also available in several on-campus computer labs.

**Learning Objectives** By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1)  Utilize a statistical software package (R) to execute quantitative analyses;

2)  Execute a basic, quantitative analysis using the skills gained from this course;

3)  Communicate research findings in writing to broader audiences;

4)  Use the skills learned in this course to successfully complete additional coursework in statistics and
    research design; and

5)  Use the skills learned in this course to successfully complete the Senior Assignment course (Political
    Science 400).

**Course Requirements** Your grade is based on five assignments, two midterms, and a term paper. Your grade breaks down as follows:

|                                           |            |
|-------------------------------------------|------------|
| Assignments (50 Points Each)              | 250 Points |
| Exam One                                  | 100 Points |
| Exam Two                                  | 100 Points |
| Final Assignment                          | 200 Points |
| Total                                     | 650 Points |

You are expected to do all of the assigned readings and assignments before each class starts and be ready to actively contribute to classroom discussions. It is vital that you keep up in this class because much of the material builds upon that which you have previously learned and is technically and mathematically demanding. It is impossible to do your assignments and readings at the last minute, or immediately before any exam and expect to do well in this

class. A good grade in this course is unattainable if you do not regularly attend class, fail to complete one or more homework assignments, or regularly submit these assignments late.

Grading Policy: I will use the following cutoffs to determine letter grades for the course: 585 points and above, "A;" 584-520 Points, "B;" 519-455 points, "C;" 454-390 points, "D;" below 390 points, "F." All students who have completed thirteen weeks of the course and do not satisfy the requirements for the grades of "NS," "WR," "I," or "UW," will receive one of the aforementioned letter grades for their performance in the class.

"NS" or "no show" grades will only be assigned if a student: 1) was never in class during the semester; or 2) attended class on the first day, but at no point thereafter.

"WR" (or "withdrawal by registrar") grades will only be assigned if all of the following criteria are satisfied: 1) a student ceases attendance and participation in the course at some point during the semester; 2) the student, his or her designee, or the Dean of Students (or his/her designee) notifies me _prior_ to the end of the semester of mitigating circumstances that are beyond the student's direct control; and 3) these circumstances exist such that a grade of "I" (or "Incomplete") is not an appropriate option. I reserve the right to require appropriate documentation of mitigating circumstances prior to issuing a grade of "WR." Students who do not produce this documentation, when requested, will receive a grade of "UW." I reserve full discretion to determine whether the mitigating circumstances are sufficient to warrant the WR grade.

A grade of "I" (or "Incomplete") will only be assigned if a student has completed, "…most of the work required for a class but is prevented by a medical or similar emergency from completing a small portion of the course requirements" (SIUE Grading Policy 2012, available at http://www.siue.edu/registrar/class/grading.shtml). Before the grade of incomplete is assigned, I require all of the following: 1) the student has completed at least 50% of the course requirements; 2) appropriate written documentation of the circumstances surrounding a request for a grade of "I;" 3) s/he meets with me to determine the timeframe in which the remaining requirements will be satisfied; and 4) s/he signs a written agreement agreeing to this timeframe. Copies of this agreement will be forwarded to the Registrar and to the Chair of the Department of Political Science. Students who do not meet all of these requirements will not be eligible for this grade.

A grade of "UW" (or "unauthorized withdrawal") will be assigned if both conditions are satisfied: 1) the student has attended more than one day of the course, but stopped attending prior to the end of the thirteenth week of the semester; and 2) s/he did not withdraw from the course prior to the end of the thirteenth week of the semester.

Assignments: There are five assignments throughout the semester that are worth 50 points each, and the final assignment being worth 200 points. These assignments may require you to perform computations, and analyze data using R.

Each assignment is due one week after I have assigned it at the beginning of class. Except for the final assignment, late assignments are accepted, but with a substantial penalty. The number of lost points is calculated as follows: five points for one calendar day late; 10 points for the second calendar day late, 15 points for the third calendar day late, and so on. Using this formula, you will lose 30 points for an assignment that you submit three days late. You will continue to lose points until you have no points remaining for that assignment. Students are exempt from the aforementioned policy if submitting the assignment late was due to university-authorized reasons. Late submissions of the final assignment are not accepted, except for university-authorized reasons.

Students are _strongly_ discouraged from sliding papers under my office door, unless arrangements are made in advance. Papers that are slid under my office door are not considered to be submitted until my next arrival into the office. Please note that the date on which a paper is considered to have been submitted could be several days after the paper was slid under the door.

Exams: The midterm exams consist of short essays and problems. If you need to reschedule an exam for _any_ reason, you must notify me prior to the start of that exam wherever possible. Generally speaking, students who arrive late for an in-class exam are not allowed to take that test once another student has finished it. I will _only_ schedule makeup exams for university-authorized reasons.

<u>Extra Credit:</u> I reserve the right to assign small extra credit assignments throughout the course.

**<u>Lecture Topics and Reading Assignments</u>**

August 20: Introduction
   Course Introduction Video (on Blackboard)

August 22: Measures of Central Tendency
   Imai, Chapters One and Two

August 27: Measures of Central Tendency (Continued)
   Imai, Chapters One and Two

August 29: Measures of Central Tendency (Continued)
   Imai, Chapters One and Two
   **Assignment #1 Distributed**

**September 3: No Class. Happy Labor Day!**

September 5: An Introduction to R
   Imai, Chapters One and Two
   Gaubatz, Chapters One through Three
   **Assignment #1 Due!**

September 10: An Introduction to R (Continued)
   Imai, Chapters One and Two
   Gaubatz, Chapters One through Three

September 12: Student Laptop Configuration Day
   Downloading and Running R Podcast
   Gaubatz, Appendices A and C

September 17 & 19: Learning to Use R Lab
   Gaubatz, Chapter Four

**September 24: Exam One**

September 26 & October 1: Tables in Statistical Analyses
   Gaubatz, Chapter Five

October 3 & 8: Graphical Representations in R
   Gaubatz, Chapters Twelve through Fifteen
   Imai, Chapter Three

October 10: Graphs in Statistical Analyses
   Gaubatz, Chapters Twelve through Fifteen
   Imai, Chapter Three
   **Assignment #2 Distributed**

October 15: Graphs in Statistical Analyses (Continued)
   Imai, Chapter Three
   Gaubatz, Chapters Twelve through Fifteen

October 17: Graphs in Statistical Analyses
        Imai, Chapter Three
        Gaubatz, Chapters Twelve through Fifteen
        **Assignment #2 Due!**

**October 22: Exam Two**

October 24: Control Variables
        Gaubatz, Chapters Six and Seven

October 29: Control Variables (Continued)
        Gaubatz, Chapters Six and Seven
        **Assignment #3 Distributed**

October 31: Inference
        Collaborative Statistics from Rice University, Chapters Ten through Twelve (available at
        http://www.oercommons.org/courses/collaborative-statistics/view)

November 5: Inference (Continued)
        Collaborative Statistics from Rice University, Chapters Ten through Twelve (available at
        http://www.oercommons.org/courses/collaborative-statistics/view)
        **Assignment #3 Due!**
        **Assignment #4 Distributed**

November 7: Tests of Statistical Significance
        Collaborative Statistics from Rice University, Chapters Thirteen through Fifteen (available at
        http://www.oercommons.org/courses/collaborative-statistics/view)

November 12: Tests of Statistical Significance (Continued)
        Collaborative Statistics from Rice University, Chapters Thirteen through Fifteen (available at
        http://www.oercommons.org/courses/collaborative-statistics/view)
        **Assignment #4 Due!**

November 14: Measures of Association
        Collaborative Statistics from Rice University, Chapter Sixteen (available at
        http://www.oercommons.org/courses/collaborative-statistics/view)
        Imai, Chapter Four

**November 19 & 21: No Class. Happy Thanksgiving!**

November 26: Measures of Association (Continued)
        Collaborative Statistics from Rice University, Chapter Sixteen (available at
        http://www.oercommons.org/courses/collaborative-statistics/view)
        Imai, Chapter Four
        **Assignment #5 Distributed**

November 28: Simple Linear Regression
        Collaborative Statistics from Rice University, Chapters Sixteen and Seventeen (available at
        http://www.oercommons.org/courses/collaborative-statistics/view)
        Imai, Chapter Four

December 3: Simple Linear Regression (Continued)
        Collaborative Statistics from Rice University, Chapters Sixteen and Seventeen (available at
        http://www.oercommons.org/courses/collaborative-statistics/view)
        Imai, Chapter Four
        **Assignment #5 Due!**

December 5: Simple Linear Regression (Continued)
   Collaborative Statistics from Rice University, Chapters Sixteen and Seventeen (available at
   http://www.oercommons.org/courses/collaborative-statistics/view)
   Imai, Chapter Four

**December 11 (Tuesday): Final Assignment Submission, 1400-1540**

<u>**Classroom Policies and Procedures**</u>

<u>Academic Misconduct:</u> Students are responsible for knowing when and learning how to cite material using the *Style Manual for Political Science* (APSA Style) for all assignments. A student is expected to appropriately cite whenever s/he uses content or ideas that come from a source other than oneself. This expectation includes anything that comes from class notes, PowerPoint slides, or the course website, as these materials are the instructor's intellectual property. For more information, please refer to the Plagiarism Frequently Asked Questions handout at the end of this document.

The APSA style is the only accepted method of citing material in this course. Failure to abide by course or university policies with respect to academic integrity may constitute cheating and/or plagiarism.

I have zero tolerance for cheating and plagiarism and will deal with every instance to the maximum extent allowed by university policies and procedures. Normally, this means that someone who cheats and/or plagiarizes will fail the course and be reported to the Provost for additional disciplinary action.

<u>Assignment Redo Policy:</u>  Students may redo any assignments except for the final assignment, provided that they have submitted one to me in the first place. Otherwise, students are not allowed to redo an assignment. If a student redoes an assignment that was originally submitted late, resubmitting the assignment does not eliminate the lateness penalties placed on the original assignment.

If a student decides to redo an assignment, s/he has one week from the day that I returned the assignment to the class to submit a *completed*, revised assignment *and* a memorandum. This memorandum must be written on a separate piece of paper than the redone assignment, must clearly state the revisions that have been made to the original assignment, and cannot be longer than one page.

If a student decides to redo an assignment, I will regrade the *entire* assignment, and assign a new score. Assuming that the assignment receives a higher grade, I will increase the grade on the assignment by ½ of the difference in points between what was earned on the original and revised assignments. If the assignment receives a lower or the same grade, then the original attempt stands. I do not accept late assignments when a student redoes them, nor do I accept redone assignments without the memorandum. Finally, students are not allowed to redo the final assignment.

<u>Cellular Phones, Pagers and Similar Electronic Devices:</u> Please turn these off before the start of this course as they distract me and your classmates. If one has an emergency that necessitates using one or more of these devices during class time, please talk to me before class starts. Finally, students are asked to refrain from using electronic devices to send text messages during class time as such conduct disrespects me and your classmates.

<u>Collaborative Work:</u> When completing your assignments, you are encouraged to work with your fellow classmates. If you collaborated with any student on your assignment, you need to tell me who you worked with at the top of the first page. Students are required to submit their own copy of the assignment that differs from the work of the rest of the group. Failure to abide by these requirements may constitute evidence of academic misconduct and will be handled according to the relevant policies in this document.

<u>Draft Copies of Student Work:</u> I am willing to read a single, complete draft of each student's assignment or redo prior to submission for a grade provided that it is submitted three days prior to the relevant due date. Multiple draft copies of the same assignment or redo from a student will not be read. Draft copies must be e-mailed to me.

E-Mail Expectations: Students are expected to regularly check their SIUE e-mail accounts, as important information about the course is disseminated in this fashion.

E-Mail Hours: I respond to student e-mails within 24 hours of the time and date that they were sent. If you do not receive a reply within this time frame, please follow-up with me.

E-Mail Limitations: I will not respond to any e-mails related to the contents of an exam on the same day as any test, nor do I provide an answer via e-mail to questions about expected grades in this course. Federal privacy laws and university policies do not allow me to e-mail any information about your grade in the class to you.

Grade Grievances:  During the semester, you may disagree with a grade that you have received on an assessment (e.g., an assignment or exam). You have the opportunity to discuss and possibly contest this grade. You must follow the following procedure, should you decide to dispute a grade:

1) Within five calendar days after an assessment is returned, you must provide a *written* explanation of why you believe your grade is incorrect. This complaint must cite relevant sources from the lectures, readings, the syllabus, or University policy that support your complaint. You must also provide a copy of the originally graded assignment along with your written complaint.

2) I will review your complaint, regrade your *entire* assignment (and not just the portion in dispute), and will deliver my written response to you within five calendar days after receiving your grievance. Please note that any new grade will not be lower than your original grade.

Grading complaints will be evaluated based on preponderance of the evidence. Failure to follow this procedure will result in your complaint being denied. Further, grade grievances on the final course assessment (e.g., assignment or exam) are solely governed by University policy rather than this provision of the syllabus.

Finally, I deny all frivolous grade change requests. For example, this includes requests such as needing a higher grade to go to graduate or law school, keeping a scholarship, graduating on time, maintaining certain GPA requirements, or getting off of academic probation.[1]

Leaving Early: If you must leave early for any reason, please notify me before class starts as doing so is much appreciated.

Sexual Harassment: I do not tolerate any such conduct as it is prohibited by law in addition to university policies and procedures. For more information, please see Southern Illinois University's Policy on Sexual Harassment (at http://www.siue.edu/policies/2c5.shtml).

Student Conduct: Pursuant to university policies and procedures, I reserve the right to remove from class, reduce the course grade, and/or assign an "F" for the course to any student who defies directions from the instructor and/or commits behaviors that manifest a lack of respect for others or their learning objectives during class. Examples of such behaviors include, but are not limited to, disrespectful, hostile, racist, disruptive, or demeaning behavior during class. For a more complete discussion of what constitutes such behavior, please refer to the Cougar Creed (at http://www.siue.edu/parents/cougar-creed.shtml), Student Conduct Code (at http://www.siue.edu/policies/3c1.shtml), and the Student Academic Code (at http://www.siue.edu/policies/3c2.shtml).

Students with Disabilities: Students needing accommodations because of medical diagnosis or major life impairment will need to register with Accessible Campus Community & Equitable Student Support (ACCESS) and complete an intake process before accommodations will be given. The ACCESS office is located in the Student Success Center, Room 1270. You can also reach the office by e-mail at myaccess@siue.edu or by calling (618) 650-3726. For more information on policies, procedures, or necessary forms, please visit the ACCESS website at http://www.siue.edu/access.

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[1] The material in this section borrows heavily from syllabi from Mark Bellemaire at the University of Minnesota and Charles Shipan at the University of Michigan.

User-Edited Websites: Students are not allowed to use any user-edited, mirror, information aggregating, or social networking websites as a source on any assignment or examination. Examples of such sources include, but are not limited to, Answers.com, Congresspedia, Diffen.com, Facebook, LinkedIn, and Wikipedia. Students are responsible for knowing whether an internet-based resource is prohibited under this policy, and are strongly encouraged to ask me about any specific website that might fall under the auspices of this policy. Any student who uses such sources will receive a 20% grade penalty on that assignment and/or paper, if s/he cites the material in question.

**Final Considerations**

The schedule presented in this document is tentative. Accordingly, I reserve the right to modify the syllabus and will post any changes on the course website. You are responsible for all of the information presented in this document, and anything discussed during class, on the course website, as well as, any podcasts that are posted to the course website. If you have any questions or concerns about anything in this class, please see me as soon as possible. We can more easily resolve such matters sooner rather than later.