

Political Science 449  
Research and Political Science  
Tuesday and Thursday, 1230-1345

Instructor: Dr. Ken Moffett  
Class Location: 1203 Alumni Hall  
Website: <http://bb.siue.edu>

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 1530-1700; and by appointment.

Prerequisite: Political Science 300, or permission of the instructor.

**Course Description** This course builds upon the training in research design and statistics that students received about how to analyze political phenomena rigorously and scientifically. Toward this end, students will learn basic methods that are required to analyze and interpret data. The course will teach students how to select appropriate analytical techniques to investigate research questions. Since the course emphasizes quantitative research methods, students will learn how to choose appropriate regression models, verify whether their data meets the assumptions behind the models, draw appropriate conclusions from their analysis, and communicate the results. By the end of the course, students will become proficient in ordinary least squares regression and logistic regression.

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

Kennedy, Peter 2003. *A Guide to Econometrics*. 5<sup>th</sup> Edition. Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press.

Lewis-Beck, Michael S. 1980. *Applied Regression: An Introduction*. Thousand Oaks, California: Sage Publications.

Lewis-Beck, Michael S. 1995. *Data Analysis: An Introduction*. Thousand Oaks, California: Sage Publications.

Pampel, Fred C. 2000. *Logistic Regression: A Primer*. Thousand Oaks, California: Sage Publication.

**Course Requirements** I determine your grade based on seven assignments, and a 20 page final paper that requires you to use at least one of the techniques that you learned in the course. Your grade breaks down as follows:

Assignment One	100 Points
Assignments (50 Points Each)	250 Points
<u>Paper</u>	<u>350 Points</u>
Total	700 Points

I will use the following cutoffs to determine letter grades: 90% and above, A; 80-89%, B; 70-79%, C; 60-69%, D; and 60% and below, F.

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 and expect to do well in the class. A good grade in this course is unattainable if you do not regularly attend class.

Assignments: I will give assignments throughout the semester that are worth a total of 350 points. These assignments will require you to analyze data using SPSS. I would strongly advise students to purchase or rent this software. Information about these options is available at <http://www.spss.com/gradpack/>.

Each assignment is due one week after I have assigned it at the beginning of class. 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.

Students may redo their assignments, 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 penalty placed on the original assignment.

If a student decides to redo an assignment, s/he has one week from the day that I return the assignment to submit a *completed*, revised assignment to me along with the original. I will regrade the *entire* assignment, and assign a new score. Assuming that the assignment receives a higher grade, I will raise the grade on the assignment by  $\frac{1}{2}$  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 resubmits them, nor do I accept redone assignments without the original attached to the back of it.

Final Paper: I will discuss the details of your final paper in a future handout.

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

### **Lecture Topics and Reading Assignments**

August 26: Introduction  
No Reading

August 28: **No Class. Student Work Day.**  
No Reading

September 2, 3, 9, 11: Statistical Review  
Lewis-Beck (1995), Chapter Three through Five

September 16: Statistical Review Lab  
No Reading  
**Assignment #1 Distributed**

September 18: Statistical Review Lab (Continued)/Student Consultation Day

September 23: Simple Regression  
Lewis-Beck (1980), Chapter One

Lewis-Beck (1995), Chapter Six  
**Assignment #1 Due!**

September 25: Simple Regression (Continued)  
Lewis-Beck (1980), Chapter One  
Lewis-Beck (1995), Chapter Six  
**Assignment #2 Distributed**

September 30: Simple Regression/Simple Regression Lab (Continued)  
Kennedy, Chapter Three  
Lewis-Beck (1980), Chapter Two  
Lewis-Beck (1995), Chapter Six

October 2: Simple Regression Lab/Student Consultation Day  
No Reading  
**Assignment #2 Due!**  
**Assignment #3 Distributed**

October 7: Regression Assumptions  
Kennedy (1995), Chapters Three, Five through Eleven

October 9: Regression Assumptions  
Kennedy (1995), Chapters Three, Five through Eleven  
**Assignment #3 Due!**

October 14 & 16: Regression Assumptions  
Kennedy (1995), Chapters Three, Five through Eleven

October 21: Regression Assumptions Lab  
No Reading  
**Assignment #4 Distributed**

October 23: Regression Assumptions Lab/Student Consultation Day  
No Reading

October 28: Multiple Regression  
Lewis-Beck (1980), Chapter Three  
Lewis-Beck (1995), Chapter Seven  
**Assignment #4 Due!**

October 30; November 4 & 6: Multiple Regression (Continued)  
Lewis-Beck (1980), Chapter Three  
Lewis-Beck (1995), Chapter Seven

November 4: Multiple Regression Lab  
No Reading  
**Assignment #5 Distributed**

November 6: Multiple Regression Lab (Continued)/Student Consultation Day  
No Reading

November 11: Logistic Regression  
Pampel, Chapter One  
**Assignment #5 Due**

November 13, 18, 20: Logistic Regression (Continued)  
Pampel, Chapters Two and Three

**November 25 & 27: No class. Happy Thanksgiving!**

December 2: Logistic Regression (Continued)  
Pampel, Chapters Two and Three

December 4: Logistic Regression Lab  
No Reading  
**Assignment #6 Distributed**

December 9: Research Process Overview  
No Reading

December 11: Research Process Overview (Continued)  
**Assignment #6 Due!**

**December 15: Final Paper Submission 1200-1340**

### **Classroom Policies and Procedures**

Academic Misconduct: 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.

Cellular Phones, Pagers and Other Such Electronic Devices: Please turn these off before the start of this course as they distract me and your classmates. If you have an emergency that necessitates using one or more of these devices, please talk to me before class starts.

Collaborative Work: When completing your assignments, I encourage you 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 constitutes evidence of academic misconduct and will be dealt with accordingly.

E-Mail Hours: Generally, I do not give a same day response to student e-mails after 5:00 p.m. However, I will give a same-day response to student e-mails on the night before exams until 7:00 p.m. I will not respond to any exam-related e-mails on the same day as any test. Federal privacy laws and university policies do not allow me to e-mail any information about your grade in the class to you.

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

Senior Assignment: Students who are political science majors or plan to become a major are well advised to keep their final exam from this course as it is a vital component of their senior assignment.

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.siu.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, Student Conduct Code (at <http://www.siu.edu/policies/3c1.shtml>), and the Student Academic Code (at <http://www.siu.edu/policies/3c2.shtml>).

Students with Disabilities: Students who need special academic accommodations and have documented disabilities should make an appointment with me to discuss these accommodations. I also encourage students with disabilities to visit the SIUE Disability Support Services office located in Rendleman Hall, Room 1218.

Wikipedia: Do not use Wikipedia or others like it as a source on any assignment or examination. Any student who uses such sources will receive a zero on assignment and/or examination, if s/he cites the material in question.

### **Final Considerations**

The schedule laid out 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 during class, in addition to anything contained in this document. 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.