

Political Science 207: Advanced Political Research Methods II

Fall 2008

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<http://www.polsci.ucsb.edu/faculty/glasgow/PS207.html>

Class meets Mondays and Wednesdays, 4:00-5:20pm.

1 Course Objectives

This course covers a variety of advanced statistical methods for analyzing political science data. A list of topics we'll try to get through (roughly in order) include:

- Advanced interpretation of statistical models.
- Missing data issues.
- A variety of two-stage models.
- Selection models.
- Panel data and time-series/cross-sectional (TSCS) data analysis.
- Basic techniques for time series data.
- Advanced discrete choice models.

In our first class meeting we will discuss some other possible topics (factor analysis and latent class analysis, matching, hierarchical linear models?). We will cover both the theoretical properties of these techniques as well as practical concerns (how to estimate models of this type, when to use it, etc.). Emphasis will be placed on the practical application of these techniques to political science data.

2 Course Requirements

Grades will be based on two components:

- Homework assignments designed to give you hands-on experience with implementing the methods discussed in class and with using Stata, the software package that will allow you to estimate most of the models we discuss in class. These homeworks will typically consist of reading a journal article or two that use the method we are currently studying, using Stata to estimate a model using the method, and a 2-3 page write-up of the results. (50%)
- A take home final exam. This exam will be much like the homeworks — one part will be reading and correctly interpreting the statistical models used in journal articles, and one part will be estimating the appropriate statistical model for a series of problems and writing up the results. (50%)

3 Readings

There is no required textbook for the class. Instead, we will be reading a variety of journal articles and working papers. You will be expected to obtain copies of the necessary articles from the library or JSTOR.