Political Science 205: Political Research Methods I  
Fall 2013

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Office Hours: 2:00pm-4:50pm Tuesdays, or by appointment.  
http://www.polsci.ucsb.edu/faculty/glasgow/ps205/ps205.html  
Class meets Tuesdays, 9:00am-11:50am in Ellison 3814 (Pritchett Room)

Course Description

This course provides an introduction to quantitative political methodology for political science graduate students. Quantitative methods are central to most of political science, and a basic understanding of these methods is necessary to even read most journals, let alone conduct research likely to be published in these journals. In this course we will cover basic probability and statistics through multivariate linear regression. We will also learn to use R, a powerful and flexible statistical software package that is rapidly becoming the standard for political methodologists.

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 R. These homeworks will typically consist of downloading some data relevant to the topic we are currently studying, using R to calculate some basic statistics or estimate a statistical model, and then providing a 2-3 page write-up of the results. I will assign homeworks approximately every two weeks. (50%)
- A take home final exam. This exam will be much like the homeworks – examining data, estimating the appropriate statistical model for a series of problems, and writing up the results. (50%)

Required Textbook


I will also be posting additional readings to our class website for you to download.