Political Science 114
Quantitative Analysis of Political Data
Winter 2021

This course is designed to give students a practical, hands-on understanding of how political scientists analyze quantitative data, including public opinion surveys and election results. The focus is on developing analytical tools and skills to enable students to conduct their own quantitative investigations of significant questions in the study of politics and government. By the end of the course, students will have begun developing a tool kit of skills (like coding variables, graphical presentation of data, and regression analysis) suitable for continued study of political science and other areas where quantitative analysis may be useful, including business, policy analysis, journalism, and applied social-science research in a variety of other fields.

Instructor
Professor Ben Highton, bhighton@ucdavis.edu
Office hours: Tuesdays 11:00-12:30, and by appt.
Zoom meeting ID: 956 3891 7607
Zoom meeting link: https://ucdavis.zoom.us/j/95638917607

Teaching Assistant
Jack Rametta, jtrametta@ucdavis.edu
Office hours: Mondays 10:00-12:00, and by appt.
Zoom meeting ID: 944 4141 0885
Zoom meeting link: https://ucdavis.zoom.us/j/94441410885

Method of Instruction
This course will be taught remotely & asynchronously. There will not be required times to "attend" class. Recorded lectures will be posted on Canvas. During a typical week, students will be expected to (a) watch and take notes on lecture material, and (b) do a data analysis homework assignment. Both the instructor and teaching assistants will hold regular remote office hours via Zoom and will be available for meeting remotely with students at other times. All material (including all readings) for the course will be posted on Canvas, and all work will be submitted through Canvas.

Important Notes about Course Materials
It may seem strange that I am telling you this, but with the transition to 100% remote teaching and the sometimes widespread and problematic sharing of course materials on-line, UCD recommends that instructors make the following crystal clear to students:

> Lectures and course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, tests, outlines, and similar materials, are protected by U.S. copyright law and by University policy. I [Ben Highton] am the exclusive owner of the copyright in those materials I create. Students may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own personal use. Students may also share those materials with another student who is enrolled in or auditing this course. Students may not reproduce, distribute or display (post/upload) lecture notes or recordings or course materials in any other way — whether or not a fee is charged — without my express prior written consent. You also may not allow others to do so. If you do so, you may be subject to student conduct proceedings under the UC Davis Code of Academic Conduct. Similarly, students own the copyright in their original papers and exam essays. If I am interested in posting your answers or papers on the course web site, I will ask for your written permission.

Data Analysis Software
Quantitative analysis may be conducted with a variety of computer programs. We will use Stata in this course. Stata is one of the better known and more commonly used programs for data analysis, especially in the social sciences. *I strongly recommend that you to obtain your own copy of Stata and install it on a computer you will have regular access to throughout the quarter.* The easiest and cheapest way to do this is through the Stata website where you can purchase a 6-month student subscription of Stata/IC for $48. For details, go to this link: https://www.stata.com/order/new/edu/profplus/student-pricing/. [Note: There are no books, readers, etc. that you need to purchase for this course, so purchasing Stata would be the only financial cost of taking this course.] For other, free, options for using Stata, please see the handout "Getting Access to Stata" available on the Canvas website for this course.

Coursework
The best way to become proficient at quantitative analysis is through practice. Therefore, in addition to attending class, the main time commitment for this course will be a series of assignments that provide students with regular opportunities to practice the skills taught in this course. There will be regular "low-stakes" homework assignments that focus on specific aspects of the course. In addition, students will write two data analysis papers where they will have the opportunity to pursue research questions of their own choosing. All aspects of these assignments will be explained fully during the quarter.

Grades
Final grades will be based on the following: homework (30%), research paper 1 (25%), research paper 2 (45%). There is no final exam in this course. The *tentative* due dates for the papers are Feb. 5 & Mar. 12. The actual due dates will be determined during the quarter based on our progress through the material.

Grade	From	To	Grade	From	To
A+	97	100	C+	77	79.9
A	93	96.9	C	73	76.9
A-	90	92.9	C-	70	72.9
B+	87	89.9	D+	67	69.9
B	83	86.9	D	63	66.9
B-	80	82.9	D-	60	62.9
			F	0	59.9

To give all students the benefit of close calls on grading, we will add 0.5 to all students' final grades. For example, a student whose overall grade is an 89.5 and who would otherwise receive a B+ will get bumped up to 90 (89.5 + 0.5=90.0) and receive an A-. (Of course there need to be cutoffs somewhere. A student with an 89.4 would get bumped to an 89.9 and still receive a B+.)

Students with Disabilities
We will be happy to accommodate students with special needs provided that they work through the process developed by the Student Disability Center on campus (http://sdc.ucdavis.edu). This process involves requesting accommodation before or at the beginning of the quarter. If you have any questions about this, please contact the instructor or the TA during the first week of the quarter.

Academic Integrity
Academic integrity is important. Dishonesty will not be tolerated. If you are unfamiliar with the university's academic code of conduct, please consult the SJA (the office of Student Support and Judicial Affairs, http://sja.ucdavis.edu/), and especially this document. If you have any questions about what constitutes inappropriate academic behavior or other concerns, please contact SJA or the instructor.