DATA ANALYSIS
FOR POLITICAL SCIENCE
POSC 300-010 | Spring 2009

TIME:	**Monday & Wednesday 9:05AM-9:55AM (Lecture)**
	Friday 9:05AM-9:55AM (Section 20)
	Friday 10:10AM-11:00AM (Section 21)
ROOM:	**Gore 217 (Lecture) & Smith 040 (Lab)**

INSTRUCTOR:	**Matthew Davis**
OFFICE HOURS:	**Monday 10AM-12PM & By Appointment**
OFFICE:	**87 E. Main (next to Grassroots) Room 111**
CONTACT:	**davism@udel.edu / (302) 753-1233 (cell)**

TA / LAB:	**Joshua Martineau**
OFFICE HOURS:	**Tuesday 11:15AM-1:15PM**
OFFICE:	**87 E. Main (next to Grassroots) Room 111**
CONTACT:	**jsm@udel.edu**

Course Description and Objectives

In an increasingly competitive academic and professional world, it is important to have a solid understanding of the tools that are commonly used in the discipline of political science. This course is designed to ground students with basic skills to help them succeed, both academically and professionally. The course will focus on two major themes: how to conduct (and analyze) good political science research, and how to carry out (and analyze) basic statistical analysis. While covering these subjects in depth, we will also touch on how to write and present your work in a professional manner. Assessment will be based on two exams, periodic homework assignments, and a research project.

Readings & Homework

Students are expected to do the required readings and homework, and be prepared to discuss them in class on the date they are assigned.

E-mail:

I will regularly use the UD POBox system to send e-mails to the class, including readings, important e-mails such as updates to the syllabus, last minute schedule changes, etc. Therefore, it is imperative that you have an activated UD account that you check regularly (or have your UD e-mail forwarded to an account that you check regularly).

Grading:

Your grade in this class will be based on attendance, class participation, homework, two exams, and a consulting project. Your final grade will be determined as follows:

20%	Mid Term Exam
20%	Final Exam
20%	Consulting Project (15%) & Presentation (5%)
20%	Homework (15%) & Notebook (5%)
10%	Attendance
10%	Class Participation

Grading Scale:

A	93-100
A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	84-86
B-	80-83
C+	77-79
C	74-76
C-	70-73
D	65-69
F	64 and below

Exams: Two exams will be offered – a mid-term and a final. The final exam will not be intentionally cumulative, but some questions may draw on concepts discussed in the first part of the semester. Exams will be take-home, and may consist of statistical problems, definitions, short answer, and/or essay questions. You **may** use your book, notes, a calculator, and/or SPSS to complete the exams. You **may not** work together on the exams – **I will have my eyes open for plagiarism or other forms of cheating.**

Homework: Throughout the semester you will be be assigned homework from your SPSS workbook and other sources. Assignments should be completed by the next class after the date listed in the syllabus, unless otherwise noted. They will be considered late if turned in after the beginning of class on the day due. You must turn in all homework assignments to receive a passing homework grade!

Notebook: The easiest way to pass this class is to take good notes and pay attention during lecture. To encourage you to do this, I will be requiring you to turn in your notebooks to be graded at the time of the mid-term exam and the final exam. As long as you take notes each day, you will receive full credit (it's pass/fail – you either do it or you don't), so as long as you take notes this can only be to your advantage. Also, the mid-term and final exam will be open notebook. This should serve as further motivation for you to take good notes.

Class Participation: I expect that you will be prepared to discuss the readings each day that class is held. Students who are consistently unprepared for discussion or do not do the readings will find this is reflected in their final participation grade.

Attendance: Regular attendance is required for this class. Everyone starts out with a 100% score for attendance. You may miss four classes for unexcused reasons. After that, I will deduct 10% from your grade for each class missed. If you arrive late, you will receive half credit for attendance on that day.

Consulting Project & Presentation: The class will be divided into groups of five. Each group will be assigned a "consulting project", in which you will analyze available statistical data and previous research to offer advice to your client. Each group will prepare a 10 to 15 page report (typed, double spaced, standard font & margins) outlining its findings and client advice, as well as prepare a 5 to 10 minute Power Point presentation summarizing the results. Each group will receive a handout further detailing its consulting project and assignment expectations.

Requirements & Administrative Notes:

When we are discussing political issues, class debates may at times become heated. Please be polite to your peers and respect their different opinions. **Students who are rude or disrespectful during class discussion may be asked to leave**. Anyone disrupting lecture will be asked to leave. Please turn off your cell phones before coming to class, and mute your laptop if you are using one to take notes. **Do not send text messages during class.** If I see you doing so, you will be asked to leave.

Assignments should be turned in on the dates due, as indicated on the syllabus **Late work will be penalized by one-half a letter grade for each day that it is late** (but the lowest grade I will give is an F (50%), so it is always to your advantage to turn in your work, no matter how late). **Extra credit** (if offered) **may not** be turned in late.

Academic Integrity:

Cheating and/or plagiarism **will not be tolerated.** Anyone caught cheating or submitting work that is not their own **will be reported to the Judicial System as outlined in the Student Guide to University Policies.**

Illnesses & Extenuating Circumstances:

If you cannot fulfill the course requirements due to a legitimate extenuating circumstance (illness, death in the family, emergency, etc.) please contact the Office of Campus Life (http://www.udel.edu/campuslife/). The staff there will help you with the necessary documentation and notify your professors as needed.

Required Text:

An SPSS Companion to Political Analysis (Paperback) by Philip H. Pollock III
CQ Press, 3rd edition (July 1, 2008), ISBN-13: 978-0872896079

Schedule and Assigned Readings:

Week 1:

Wed Feb 11: Introduction to Course, Distribute & Review Syllabus

Fri Feb 13: Lecture: What is Political Science & What Do We Do?

Week 2:

Mon Feb 16: Lecture: The Scientific Method & Political Science

Wed Feb 18: Lecture: Preparing for Research
Homework: Develop three research questions, then write one paragraph for each discussing some of the potential problems you might encounter while pursuing answers to those questions (due Monday February 23).

Fri Feb 20: Lab: Pick Groups, Select Consulting Projects

Week 3:

Mon Feb 23: Lecture: Introduction to Qualitative Research
(Research Question Homework Due)

Wed Feb 25: Lecture: Literature Reviews & Citations

Fri Feb 27: Lab: Literature Reviews & Citations
Homework: Create an annotated bibliography and write 3 to 5 page literature review on your consulting group's research topic (due Friday March 13th).

Week 4:

Mon Mar 2: Lecture: Qualitative Research, cont.

Wed Mar 4: Lecture: Introduction to Quantitative Research

Fri Mar 6: Lab: Introduction to SPSS
Pollock Chapter 1
Homework: Chapter 1 Exercises

Week 5:

Mon Mar 9: Lecture: Variables and Hypotheses

Wed Mar 11: Lecture: Measuring Variables in Quantitative Research
Homework: Develop a theory and five testable hypotheses based around your group's research question. Discuss the level of analysis, direction of the hypotheses, and the dependent and independent variables. (Due Wed. March 18th)

Fri Mar 13: Lab: Manipulating Data in SPSS
Pollock Chapter 3
Homework: Chapter 3 Exercises
(Lit Review Homework Due)

Week 6:

Mon Mar 16: Lecture: Assessing Your Research

Wed Mar 18: Mid Term Review, Hand Out Mid Term
1st Half Notebook Review
(Theory & Hypotheses Homework Due)

Fri Mar 20: **NO CLASS: Work on Mid Term Exam**

Week 7:

Mon Mar 23: **Mid Term Due in Class**
Lecture: The Normal Distribution

Wed Mar 25: Lecture: Univariate Analysis (Measures of Central Tendency)

Fri Mar 27: Lab: Univariate Analysis in SPSS
Pollock Chapter 2
Homework: Chapter 2 Exercises

Week 8:

Mon Mar 30: **NO CLASS: Spring Break**

Wed April 1: **NO CLASS: Spring Break**

Fri April 3: **NO CLASS: Spring Break**

Week 9:

Mon April 6: Lecture: Sampling

Wed April 8: Lecture: Sampling, cont.

Fri April 10: Lab: Making Inferences About Sample Means
Pollock Chapter 6
Homework: Chapter 6 Exercises

Week 10:

Mon April 13: Lecture: Bivariate Analysis (Crosstabs)

Wed April 15: Lecture: Bivariate Analysis (Compare Means)

Fri April 17: Lab: Bivariate Analysis in SPSS
Pollock Chapters 4 & 5
Homework: Chapter 4 Exercises

Week 11:

Mon April 20: Lecture: Measures of Significance & Association

Wed April 22: Lecture: Measures of Significance & Association, cont.

Fri April 24: Lab: Chi-square, F-test, and Measures of Association in SPSS
Pollock Chapter 7
Homework: Chapter 7 Exercises

Week 12:

Mon April 27: Lecture: Linear Regression

Wed April 29: Lecture: Linear Regression, cont.

Fri May 1: Lab: Correlation & Linear Regression in SPSS
Pollock Chapters 8 & 9
Homework: Chapter 8 Exercises

Week 13:

Mon May 4: Lab: Work on Consulting Projects

Wed May 6: Lab: Work on Consulting Projects

Fri May 8: Lab: Work on Consulting Projects

Week 14:

Mon May 11: Presentations: Groups 1, 2 & 3

Wed May 13:	Presentations: Groups 4, 5 & 6
Fri May 15:	Presentations: Groups 7 & 8

Week 15:

Mon May 18:	Final Exam Review, Hand Out Final **2nd Half Notebook Review**
Wed May 20:	**NO CLASS: Work on Final**
Fri May 22:	**NO CLASS: Reading Day**

Week 16:

Mon May 25:	Final Exam Due @ 5PM – No In-Class Final