POLITICAL SCIENCE 421: METHODS OF POLITICAL INQUIRY

Course Schedule
(Subject to Change in Weather)

August 27  Introductions and Course Overview
Get Assignment 1 (all assignments on Blackboard Learn)

September 3  Why Numbers and Statistics for Political Science/Policy Research?
2. Pollock Essentials, Introduction & Ch. 1 for both 3rd and 4th Editions (If you do not have the book yet, this reading is on also Blackboard Learn). Also, for extra reading on hypotheses, see Essentials, Ch. 3, pp. 48-58 (3rd Edition: Ch. 3, pp. 44-54).
Lab One  SPSS and Frequencies: Pollock Companion, Ch. 1 (If you do not have this book yet, this is on Blackboard Learn, so bring a printout to class)
Assignment 1 Due

September 10  Begin Social Capital Case
1. Bowling Alone, Ch. 1-3
Lab Two  Introduction to Online Analysis: Investigating Community and Social Capital (ICSC) Web Site, Exercise 1, Part B & Exercise 2, Part B, questions 4-5
Get Assignment 2

September 17  Level/Unit of Analysis, Levels of Measurement, and Frequencies
1. (Re)read Bowling Alone, Ch. 1-3
2. Read the book reviews of Bowling Alone in The New York Times and The American Prospect. Web links to these reviews are on Blackboard Learn & the ICSC Web Site, Exercise 2: Social Change.
3. Pollock Essentials, Ch. 2, pp. 28-32 (3rd Edition: Ch. 2, pp. 26-30)
Lab Three  Online Analysis: ICSC, Exercise 1, Top of Part C, questions 6-7
Assignment 2 Due, Get Assignment 3

September 24  Describing Variables
1. Salkind, Ch. 2-4 (3rd and 4th Editions)
2. Pollock Essentials, Ch. 2, pp. 32-47 (3rd Edition: Ch. 2, pp. 30-43)
Lab Four  Central Tendency and Dispersion/Variability: ICSC, Exercise 1, Bottom of Part C, questions 8-9 & Pollock Companion, Ch. 2 (3rd and 4th Editions)
Assignment 3 Due, Get Assignment 4

October 1  Comparing Variables
1. Bowling Alone, Ch. 10-15
2. Pollock Essentials, Ch. 3 (3rd and 4th Editions)
Lab Five  Crosstabulations: ICSC, Exercise 3, Part B, questions 4-5 & Pollock Companion, Ch. 3, pp. 41-49 & Ch. 4 (3rd Edition: Ch. 3, pp. 37-45 & Ch. 4)
Assignment 4 Due, Get Assignment 5

October 8  Exam 1 (on course material from September 3rd thru 24th)

October 15  Comparing Variables again, and Introduction to Control
1. Bowling Alone, Ch. 10-15
2. Pollock Essentials, Ch. 5 (3rd and 4th Editions)
Lab Six  Crosstabulations: ICSC, Exercise 3, Part C, questions 6-7 & Pollock Companion, Ch. 5, pp. 93-103 (3rd Edition: Ch. 5, pp. 87-97)
Assignment 5 Due, Get Assignment 6
October 22  Probability, Sampling, and Z-scores
1. Salkind, Ch. 8 (3rd and 4th Editions)
2. Pollock Essentials, Ch. 6 (3rd and 4th Editions)
Lab Seven  T.B.A.
Assignment 6 Due. Get Assignment 7.

October 29  Statistical Inference & Statistical Significance
1. Salkind, Ch. 9 & 17 (3rd Edition: Ch. 9 & 16)
Lab Eight  Chi-Square: Companion, Ch. 7 (3rd and 4th Editions)
Assignment 7 Due, Get Assignment 8

November 5  Indexes
Lab Nine  Computing an Index: ICSC Web Site, Exercise 4, Part C-D, questions 6-7
Assignment 8 Due, Get Assignment 9

November 12  Exam 2 (on course material from October 1st thru 29th)

November 19  Correlation
1. Salkind, Ch. 5 & 15 (3rd Edition: Ch. 5 & 14)
2. Pollock Essentials, Ch. 8, pp. 182-196 (3rd Edition: Ch. 8, 170-184)
3. Bowling Alone, Ch. 16-22
Lab Ten  Correlation: ICSC, Exercise 4, Part D, question 8 & Companion, Ch. 8,
   pp. 159-170 (3rd Edition: Ch. 8, pp. 155-164)
Assignment 9 Due, Get Assignment 10

November 26  Thanksgiving Vacation

December 3  Finding a Dataset for Further Research
1. Salkind, Ch. 20 (3rd Edition: Ch. 19)
   Political Science: Quantitative and Qualitative Approaches. Armonk, New York: M.E. Sharpe. On
   Blackboard Learn.
Assignment 10 Due

December 10  Catch Up Week

December 17  Exam 3 (on course material from November 5th thru end of semester)
Final Exam Period: 6-7:50 pm (may be able to change to 4 pm if there are no conflicts)