Political Science
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
MISSISSAUGA

POL242Y5 Y: METHODS   Summer 2019

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Office Location:	New North Building, NE 5164
Office Hours:	Wednesdays and Fridays (9am - 10am, and/or by appointment)

Class Location:	CC 1160
Class Time:	Wednesdays and Fridays 10:00am to 12:00pm
TA	TBA
Email:	TBA
Tutorial Location:	CC 1160
Tutorial Time:	Wednesdays and Fridays, 12-1pm

Course Description and Objectives

This course offers an introduction to political science research methods. The course will cover basic approaches to political science, the choices that researchers have to make when designing their research and basic methods of analysis for both qualitative and quantitative data. The course will cover a wider range of topics including validity and reliability, levels of measurement, questionnaire design, experiments, elite interviews, participant observation, policy evaluation and multivariate regression analysis. By the end of the semester, students are expected to have a better acquaintance with quantitative and qualitative data and methods conducive to empirical political science and policy research and the ability to comprehend and critique the techniques employed by others. The course does not assume any prior knowledge of statistics and will make every effort to address concepts both quantitatively and theoretically. Furthermore, the course will employ the most important quantitative concepts through hands-on application using R. The objectives of this course are not only to produce sophisticated consumers of quantitative and qualitative research but to provide the required skills for students to conduct their own empirical research independently with minimum guidance.

Required Textbook

: You will read the following two books in their entirety:

- Paul M. Kellstedt and Guy D. Whitten, *The Fundamentals of Political Science Research, Third Edition* (Cambridge University Press, 2018).

- Phil H. Pollock III and Barry C. Edwards, *An R Companion to Political Analysis, 2nd Edition* (CQ Press, 2017). *(The above textbooks are available in the university bookstore. I will post other readings on Quercus.*

Software Requirements

In this course you will be required to use *R* software. The R language is a free software that is widely used in political science research. Your textbook *(An R Companion to Political Analysis by Pollock and Edwards)* has step-by-step instructions for clear guidance and visual explanations along with exercises and research-quality datasets that will allow you hands-on practice. In addition, we will assist you to install the software in case you need a help.

Class Structure and Attendance

The class structure aims to create a learning experience that is mutually beneficial for every student. All students must take an initiative to broaden their understanding of the lecture materials. Homework assignments, proposals, and tests have been designed to aid students to gain deeper knowledge and understanding of the course. Students are welcomed and urged to ask questions and discuss course materials during lecture hours and office hours. Peer-to-peer discussions outside of lecture hours and on the discussion board in Quercus are highly encouraged. Attendance in both lecture and lab is mandatory. I urge students to keep up with the readings since the information in this class is highly cumulative.

Learning Portal: Quercus

The university eLearning portal is Quercus (https://portal.utoronto.ca) and all course details will primarily be posted there. Please check the portal regularly for assignments, readings, lecture slides, and important announcement updates. The discussion board present for the course in Quercus should be used by you to ask course related queries and engage in any course material related discussions. *It is your responsibility to gain access to Quercus as all course updates will be posted there.*

Lecture Slides

A summary of the lecture slides will be uploaded on Quercus after each lecture to allow you to review the lecture materials. Please be advised that some lecture slides may vary from the ones during the lecture and you will be notified of such during the lecture.

Grading and Evaluation

- **Grades and Assessment:** You may refer to the following table to understand the weights for each assessment area.

Assessment	% of the Total Grade
Participation	10 %
Homework assignments (3 x 5 %) (dates on page 6)	15 %
Test 1 (July 5)	20 %
Empirical Research Proposal (due July 12)	10 %
Test 2 (August 9)	20 %
Empirical Research Paper (due August 10)	25 %

- **Participation, 10%:** All students are expected to be present and prepared for every class session. Active participation during lectures and tutorials is essential. Your participation marks will be evaluated based on your attendance and the quality and frequency of your questions, comments and observations in lectures and tutorials. You can miss one lecture and tutorial, if circumstance arises, without penalty.

- **Homework assignments, 15% (3 equally weighted :)** You are required to submit 3 homework assignments. Each homework assignment weighs 5% of the total grade. The first homework assignment will be a theoretical homework and the two other assignments will be on data analysis where you will apply the concepts learnt in lecture and tutorial using *R* software. Details will be provided in class.

  It is your responsibility to inform your TA of any absence, so as to make alternate arrangements for assignement submission and participation marks. Note that official documentation for your absence is required to allow you to gain homework assignment and participation marks.

- **Tests, 40% (2 equally weighted :)** Tests will focus on terms, concepts, theories, methods and interpretation of descriptive and inferential statistics discussed in lecture, lab and readings. There will be two tests, each with 20% of the total grade.

  University policy regarding makeup tests are as follows:

  Students who miss a term test for reasons entirely beyond their control may, within one week of the missed test, submit to the instructor a written request for special consideration explaining the reason for missing the test, and attaching appropriate documentation, such as a medical certificate. If a written request with documentation cannot be submitted within one week, the instructor may consider a request to extend the time limit. ... no student is automatically entitled to a second makeup test. *If a student is granted to write the make-up test and misses it, the student will receive a zero.*

- **Empirical Research Proposal, 10%:** You will write an empirical research proposal. You will precisely ask a research question, review existing literature, and formulate a theoretically informed testable hypothesis. Due July 12, 2019. Details will be provided in class.

- **Empirical Research Paper, 25%:** In light with your proposed research, you will write an empirical research paper and test the hypothesis using any of the datasets available in Pollock and Edwards's book. You will run a multiple regression analysis of a dependent variable of your choice with *R* software. Due August 10, 2019. Details will be provided in class.

  Late Penalties and Extension: We will apply the late penalties in line with the university's rules. However, if you have an extension, the late penalties will not be applied. Otherwise, for each day late, we will apply a 2 percentage point late penalty. For instance, a paper submitted after 3 days of the deadline will receive 3*2=6 percentage points deduction. Thus, if you receive 80 and submit your assignment after three days of the deadline, your grade will be (80-6) 74.

- **Group Work and Collaboration:** Group work and collaboration will be allowed for some assignments and it will be notified during class. Students may work together and complement each others strengths and weaknesses; however, making sure that at the end of the exercise each one benefits and learn from the other. The final test will be closed book and students will be assessed individually, so it is essential that all students know every concept taught thoroughly.

- **Turnitin:** Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism.

Teaching Assistant and Tutorials

Students will have a TA for the course who will conduct the tutorials for the course. The TA will be responsible for grading assignments. Queries regarding homework assignments, tests, research papers or other course related issues could be directed towards both the course instructor and the TA.

Grade Appeals

Students not satisfied with their grades may approach the concerned TA and have a discussion. Following that, if the student is still unsatisfied then the student may approach the instructor with proper documentation to support his/her claim. The assignment/essay/paper will be re-graded by someone other than the original grader and that grade will be the final grade regardless of whether the re-graded mark is lower or higher than the original mark.

Outside Class Communication Policy

- **Office Hours:** Students are encouraged to visit the instructor during the mentioned office hours for clarification of any course material. Students may also approach the TA during their office hours which will be announced on Quercus.

- **Discussion Board** Students are encouraged to post questions about class materials on the discussion board, so that answers can be given quickly and easily by your peers, TA and instructor. Consequently, other students will also benefit, as they may have same queries.

- **Email Communications:** Email should be used when addressing a personal query such as requesting for submission extension with a valid reason. As mentioned, other class related questions can be posted on the discussion board. Students should allow for one working day for emails to be answered. If you do not hear from us within one working day, please feel free to send a reminder. All emails subject should start with **POL242:** for this course related communication.

Academic Integrity: A Warning about Plagiarism

Academic integrity and honesty is of the utmost importance in your learning journey at the University of Toronto. Students are expected to maintain the highest level of academic ethics during their studies to ensure that their academic achievements are genuine. Students are to familiarize themselves with the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/osai/students). Some academic misconducts are: cheating on exams/tests, plagiarism, submitting fraudulent documentation and false credentials, and fabricating data among others. For particular examples and scenarios you may go through "What is Academic Misconduct" (http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/osai/The-rules/ what-is-academic-misconduct) at the Office of Student Academic Integrity's website. Further information on academic integrity and plagiarism can be found at: http://advice.writing.utoronto.ca/using-sources/

Accessibility

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the AccessAbility Resource Centre as soon as possible.

AccessAbility staff (located in Rm 2047, South Building) are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations. Please call 905-569-4699 or email

access.utm@utoronto.ca. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

Notice of Collection

The University of Toronto respects your privacy. The information on medical certificates is collected pursuant to section 2(14) of the University of Toronto Act, 1971. It is collected for the purpose of administering accommodations for academic purposes based on medical grounds. The department will maintain a record of all medical certificates received. At all times it will be protected in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

If you have questions, please refer towww.utoronto.ca/privacyor contact the University's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Office at 416-946-5835. Address: Room 201, McMurrich Bldg., 12 Queens Park Crescent, Toronto, ON, M5S 1A1.

Syllabus Change Policy

Any changes in the syllabus will be notified in advance during lecture hours, as well as announced and updated on Quercus. It is the student's responsibility to keep abreast of changes in the syllabus, and important dates.

Course Outline and Exams at a glance

Please refer to the table below for an overview of class schedule and readings for each week. Note that the schedule may be adjusted during the semester according to the actual pace with which the class progresses and assignment deadlines will also be modified. Any and all changes will be announced during the lecture and also on Quercus.

Week	Date	Topic	Assignment and Exam
1	8th May, 10th May	Introduction: Motivation and Overview; Levels of Measurement	
2	15th May, 17th May	Research Design: Theory, Variables, Measures and Hypotheses	HW 1 will be assigned on May 17
3	22th May, 24th May	Descriptive Statistics: Measures of Central Tendency; Measures of Dispersion, Skewness, Frequency Distributions	HW 1 due on May 27
4	29th May, 31st May	Data Gathering Methods: Questionnaire design, Experiments, Elite interviews, Participant observation	
5	5th June, 7th June	Categorical Variable Analysis: Crosstabs, Chi-square, Categorical Variable Analysis: Controlling for a third variable	HW 2 will be assigned on June 7
6	12th June, 14th June	Probability I: The Standard Normal (Z) Distribution, Binomial Probability Distribution	HW 2 due on June 14
	18th June, 1st July	Study break	
7	3rd July, 5th July	Probability II: Sampling and Inference; The t-distribution; Statistical Significance and Confidence Intervals	Test 1 in class on July 5
8	10th July, 12nd July	Regression: Correlation, Bivariate Regression; Goodness of fit & OLS Assumptions	Research proposal is due on July 12
9	17th July, 19th July	Multivariate Regression: Dummy Regression & Influential Observations	HW 3 will be assigned on July 19
10	24rd July, 26th July	Regression Diagnostics: Multi-collinearity, Heteroskedasticity, & Correlated Disturbances	HW 3 is due on July 26
11	31th July, 2nd August	Model Specification, Interactions, & Polynomial Regression.	
12	7th August, 9th August	Research Ethics, Overview and Review	Test 2 in class on August 9
		Empirical Research Paper (ERP)	ERP is due on August 10

Detailed Course Outline and Required Readings

PART 1: FUNDAMENTALS OF CAUSAL EXPLANATIONS

Week 1 - (8th May) - Motivation and Overview: Studying Politics Scientifically

- **Required reading:** Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapter 1

- **Required task:** Install R and RStudio. Install *'poliscidata'* package from Pollock and Edward's R companion (hereafter, R Companion), Introduction: Getting Acquainted with R

Week 1 - (10th May) - Research Design and Hypothesis

- **Required reading:** Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapter 2 and 3

- **R Companion:** Chapter 2

Week 2 - (15th May) - Theories, Concepts, Variables and Level of Measurements

- **Required reading:** Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapter 5 and 6

- **R Companion:** Chapter 2 again!

PART 2: APPROACHES TO CAUSAL EXPLANATIONS

Week 2 - (17th May) - Experimental Study

- **Required reading:** Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapter 4 (pp. 77-88)

- **R Companion:** Chapter 2 again!

- Loewen, P. J., Koop, R., Settle, J., & Fowler, J. H. (2014). A natural experiment in proposal power and electoral success. American Journal of Political Science, 58(1), 189-196.

- Posner, D. N. (2004). The political salience of cultural difference: Why Chewas and Tumbukas are allies in Zambia and adversaries in Malawi. American Political Science Review, 98(4), 529-545.

- HW 1 will be assigned

Week 3 - (22nd May) - Observational Study

- **Required reading:** Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapter 4 (pp. 92-100)

- **R Companion:** Get familiar with Chapter 3 (lightly)

- Kayser, M. A., & Peress, M. (2012). Benchmarking across borders: electoral accountability and the necessity of comparison. American Political Science Review, 106(3), 661-684.

Week 3 - (24nd May) - Case Study: Small N Versus Large N

- Gerring, J. (2004). What is a case study and what is it good for?. American political science review, 98(2), 341-354.

- Geddes, B. (1990). How the cases you choose affect the answers you get: Selection bias in comparative politics. Political analysis, 2, 131-150.

- HW 1 is due on this date

Week 4 - (29rd May) - Textual Study

- Laver, Michael, Kenneth Benoit, and John Garry. 2003. "Extracting Policy Positions from Political Texts Using Words as Data." American Political Science Review 97(2): 311331.

- Grimmer, J., & Stewart, B. M. (2013). Text as data: The promise and pitfalls of automatic content analysis methods for political texts. Political analysis, 21(3), 267-297.

Week 4 - (31st May) - Data Collection Methods: Surveys, Interviews and More

- **R Companion:** Get familiar with Chapter 2 and 3 again!

- King, G., Murray, C. J., Salomon, J. A., & Tandon, A. (2004). Enhancing the validity and cross-cultural comparability of measurement in survey research. American political science review, 98(1), 191-207.

- Hermanowicz, J. C. (2002). The great interview: 25 strategies for studying people in bed. Qualitative sociology, 25(4), 479-499.

Week 5 - (5th June) - Sampling: Random (Representative) Versus Selective (bias) sampling

- King, G., Keohane, R. O., & Verba, S. (1995). The importance of research design in political science. American Political Science Review, 89(2), 475-481.

- Verba, S. (1996). The citizen as respondent: sample surveys and American democracy presidential address, American Political Science Association, 1995. American Political Science Review, 90(1), 1-7. (Carefully read pages 1 to 4)

PART 3: DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS

Week 5 - (7th June) - Descriptive Statistics: Visualization and Interpretation

- **Required reading:** Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapter 6.

- **R Companion:** Chapter 2 and 3 again!

- HW 2 will be assigned

Week 6 - (12th June) - Controlled Comparisons and Cross-tabulation

- **Required reading:** Pollock and Edwards, Chapter 4 and 5
- **R Companion:** Chapter 4 and 5

Week 6 - (14th June) - Probability 1: Statistical Inference

- **Required reading: Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapter 7**
- **R Companion:** Chapter 6
- HW 2 is due on this date

18th June to 1st July: Study Break (No classes!)

Week 7 - (3rd July) - Probability 2: The t-distribution, Confidence Intervals and Sample Proportions

- **Required reading: Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapter 8**
- **R Companion:** Chapter 6 again!

PART 4: INFERENTIAL STATISTICS

Week 7 - (5th July) - Bivariate (Two-Variable) Regression Analysis I

- **Required reading: Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapter 9**
- **R Companion:** Chapter 8
- Test 1 in class

Week 8 - (10th July) - Bivariate (Two-Variable) Regression Analysis II

- **Required reading: Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapter 9 again!**
- **R Companion:** Chapter 8 again!

Week 8 - (12nd July) - Multiple Regression Analysis I

- **Required reading: Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapter 10**
- **R Companion:** Chapter 9
- Research proposal is due on this date

Week 9 - (17th July) Multiple Regression Analysis II

- **Required reading: Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapter 10 again!**
- **R Companion:** Chapter 9 again!

Week 9 - (19th July) - Multiple Regression Analysis III: Model Specification and Practical Problems

- **Required reading: Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapter 9 and 10 again!**

- **R Companion:** Chapter 8 and 9 again!

- HW 3 will be assigned

Week 10 - (24th July) - Interactions

- **Required reading: Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapter 11**

- **R Companion:** Chapter 9 again!

Week 10 - (26th July) - Interactions with Dummy Variables

- **Required reading: Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapter 11 again!**

- **R Companion:** Chapter 9 again!

- HW 3 is due

Week 11 - (31st July) - Regression Diagnostics: Multi-collinearity, Heteroskedasticity, & Correlated Disturbances

- **Required reading: Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapter 11 again!**

- **R Companion:** Chapter 8 and 9 again!

- Test 2 in class

Week 11 - (2nd August) - Binary Logistic Regression: Concepts & Terminology

- **Required reading: Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapter 12**

- **R Companion:** Chapter 10

Week 12 - (7th August) - Research Ethics

- Fujii, L. A. (2012). Research ethics 101: Dilemmas and responsibilities. PS: Political Science & Politics, 45(4), 717-723.

- Wood, E. J. (2006). The ethical challenges of field research in conflict zones. Qualitative sociology, 29(3), 373-386.

Week 12 - (9ᵗʰ August) - Overview and Review

- **R Companion:** Chapter 11

- Test 2 in class on August 9

- **Empirical Research Paper is due on August 10ᵗʰ**

<div align="center">Good Luck!</div>

A WARNING ABOUT PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is an academic offence with a severe penalty.

It is essential that you understand what plagiarism is and that you do not commit it. In essence, it is the theft of the thoughts or words of others, without giving proper credit. You must put others' words in quotation marks and cite your source(s). You must give citations when using others' ideas, even if those ideas are paraphrased in your own words. Plagiarism is unacceptable in a university. What the university calls "plagiarism", non-university institutions might call "fraud".

The University of Toronto provides a process that faculty members must initiate when they suspect a case of plagiarism. In the Department of Political Science, suspected evidence of plagiarism must be reported to the Chair; in most cases, the Chair passes the case on to the Dean.

A faculty member may not mark an assignment or assess a penalty if he or she finds evidence of plagiarism – the matter must be reported. Penalties are assigned by the Chair, by the Dean or by the University of Toronto Tribunal.

The following are some examples of plagiarism:

1. Submitting as your own an assignment written by someone else.
2. Quoting an author without indicating the source of the words.
3. Using words, sentences, or paragraphs written by someone else and failing to place quotation marks around the material and reference the source and author. **Using either quotation marks or reference alone is not sufficient. Both must be used!**
4. Adapting an author's ideas or theme and using it as your own without referencing the original source.
5. Seeking assistance from a friend or family member in respect to work you claim as your own.

Ignorance of the rules against plagiarism is not a defense; students are presumed to know what plagiarism is and how to avoid it.

Students are especially reminded that material taken from the web **must** be quoted and cited in the same manner as if it came from a book or printed article.

If you are not sure whether you have committed plagiarism, it is better to ask a faculty member or teaching assistant than risk discovery and be forced to accept an academic penalty.

Plagiarism is **cheating**. It is considered a **serious offence** against intellectual honesty and intellectual property. Penalties can be severe, ranging from a mark of "0" for the assignment or test in question, **up to and including expulsion from the university.**

Some website listed below on avoiding plagiarism:
'How to Use Sources and Avoid Plagiarism' - available at: http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize Other Advisory Material available at: http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/home