Leiden University - Political Science
MA International Relations and Diplomacy

Quantitative Research Methods

Regular Class Meetings
Thursday, Nov. 4 – Dec. 16, 2010, 11:00 – 13:00, Room 5B02* (except Nov. 25)
Wednesday, Nov. 24, 2010, 11:00-13:00, Room 1A22
***Nov. 18: Room 1A41**

Computer Lab Meeting (choose one)
Monday, November 15, 15.00 – 17.00
Wednesday, November 17, 13.00 –15.00
Room 1A26 (pc)

MIRD, Semester 1, Block 2
5 ECTS, Level 500
Course Code: 6448QRM07
Room 401

Instructor: Michael F. Meffert
Office Hours: Wednesday, 11:00-12:00, and by appointment
071-527-3862
m.f.meffert@fsw.leidenuniv.nl

Course Description

This course aims to provide students with theoretical insights and practical skills related to statistical analysis in political science. We will discuss topics such as probability distributions, hypothesis testing, cross-tabulation, correlation, analysis of variance, bivariate and multivariate regression and finally, logistic regression. In addition to this, we study research that has employed statistical analysis. In the framework of short assignments, we conduct statistical analyses using various data sources.

Method of Instruction

The course consists of weekly lectures and (some) class discussions.

Readings

Field, Andy. 2009. *Discovering Statistics Using SPSS*. 3rd ed. Thousand Oaks: Sage.

Additional texts listed or linked via Blackboard.

Assignments and Research Paper

Your final grade is based on three short homework assignments and a final research paper:

Short Assignments: 60% (3 x 20%)
Final Research Paper: 40%

Class attendance is mandatory. Students who miss more than one class will automatically fail the course. Properly documented emergencies and in advance requested and permitted absences are exempt from this rule.

Short Assignments
The three *individual* homework assignments primarily apply the techniques covered in the course. Each homework assignment contributes 20% to your course grade. The assignments are due *before* class (via Ephorus and as hard copy in class). Late submissions are *not* accepted.
Assignment 1: ***Measurement & Description*** (due ***November 18, 2010, 11:00***)
Assignment 2: ***t Test/ANOVA*** (due ***December 2, 2010, 11:00***)
Assignment 3: ***Regression*** (due ***December 16, 2010, 11:00***)
The specific instructions for each assignment will be announced during the course.

Final Research Paper
At the end of the course, you will write a short quantitative research paper (ca. 3500 words, due ***Monday, January 10, 2011***) in which you develop a theoretical argument, (conceptualize and operationalize variables), choose appropriate data to test they hypothesis, and report the results. A short, one-page proposal is due on ***December 9, 2010***, in class.

The homework assignments and the research proposal have strict and final deadlines. Late submissions are not accepted and scored with 0 points.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is understood as presenting, intentionally or otherwise, someone else's words, thoughts, analyses, argumentations, pictures, techniques, computer programmes, etc., as your own work. Plagiarism is not allowed and has serious consequences. Students must be familiar with Leiden University's rules about plagiarism. They are available at:
http://www.regulations.leiden.edu/education-students/plagiarism.html

The departmental rules and procedures with regard to plagiarism can be found at:
http://www.socialsciences.leiden.edu/politicalscience/students/postgraduate/regulations/plagiarism.html

Important note: Plagiarism occurs in both of the following situations:
- Quoting work from other (and outside) sources without attribution;
- Copying the work of other students when completing individual assignments.

Course Schedule

Please note: The topics and readings are preliminary and might be subject to some minor adjustments.

Thursday, Nov. 4   Course Introduction

Readings
- Field, Ch. 1, "Why…?", pp. 1-30.

Recommended
- Mansfield, Edward D., and Jon C. Pevehouse. 2008. "Quantitative Approaches." In *Oxford Handbook of International Relations*, eds. Christian Reus-Smit and Duncan Snidal. Oxford: Oxford University Press, p. 481-498.

Thursday, Nov. 11   Basic Assumptions, Measurement, & Descriptive Statistics
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Readings
- Field, Ch. 2, "Everything you ever wanted to know…", pp. 31-60.
- Field, Ch. 5, "Exploring Assumptions", pp. 131-165.
- Fearon, James D. 2003. "Ethnic and Cultural Diversity by Country." *Journal of Economic Growth* 8(2): 195-222.

Monday, Nov. 15 *or* Wednesday, Nov. 17   Computer Lab Practice Session
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Readings
- Field, Ch. 3, "The SPSS Environment", pp. 61-86.
- Field, Ch. 4, "Exploring Data with Graphs", pp. 61-86.
- Fearon, James D., and David D. Laitin. 2003. "Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War." *American Political Science Review* 97(1): 75-90.

Thursday, Nov. 18   Categorical Data

>> Assignment 1: Measurement & Description

Readings
- Field, Ch. 18, "Categorical Data", pp. 686-701 & 708-724.

Wednesday, Nov. 24   Group Differences: t Test, ANOVA

Readings
- Field, Ch. 9, "Comparing Two Means", pp. 316-346.
- Field, Ch. 10, "Comparing Several Means: ANOVA", pp. 347-394.

Thursday, Dec. 2   Correlation & Simple Regression

>> Assignment 2: t Test/ANOVA

Readings
- Field, Ch. 6, "Correlation", pp. 166-196.
- Field, Ch. 7, "Regression", pp. 197-209.

Thursday, Dec. 9   Multiple Regression

>> Proposal for Final Research Paper due

Readings
- Field, Ch. 7, "Regression", pp. 209-263.

Thursday, Dec. 16   Logistic Regression

>> Assignment 3: Regression

Readings
- Field, Ch. 8, "Logistic Regression", pp. 264-315.
- Sambanis, Nicholas, and Jonah Schulhofer-Wohl. 2009. "What's in a Line? Is Partition a Solution to Civil War?" *International Security* 34(2): 82-118.

>> Final Research Paper (due January 10, 2011)