Temple University  
Department of Political Science  

Political Science 8001: Political Statistics I  

Fall 2012 Semester  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Class Schedule</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ryan J. Vander Wielen, Ph.D.</td>
<td>R 5:40-8:10 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office: 457 Gladfelter Hall</td>
<td>341 Gladfelter Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office Phone: 215.204.7796</td>
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<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:rvwielen@temple.edu">rvwielen@temple.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>WWW: <a href="http://unix.temple.edu/~rvwielen/">http://unix.temple.edu/~rvwielen/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Office Hours: R 3:30–5:00 PM and by appointment</td>
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Course Objective:

This is an introduction to research methodology and quantitative analysis for political scientists. This class will introduce students to social scientific inquiry and the basic statistical tools used to study political phenomena. Students will learn to analyze substantive questions using descriptive analysis, correlation, graphical analysis, hypothesis testing, confidence intervals, analysis of variance, and regression analysis. The course will consist of a combination of classroom lectures and computer lab-sessions, to acquaint students with the collection, management, and analysis of data using computer software. Basic math skills (algebra) are recommended but not required.

Course Materials:

There is one required text, which is available at the campus bookstore and on-line, that we will draw from throughout the semester. I have also listed some recommended texts that I encourage you to use to supplement the primary text.

- **Required Text:**

- **Recommended Readings:**
Course Evaluation:

Students are expected to attend lectures, do all readings prior to class meetings, and complete homework assignments on time.

Student evaluations will be based on homework assignments, a final project, and examinations. All homework assignments and due dates are listed in the schedule below. Unless there is prior announcement, these assignments are to be submitted at the beginning of class on the due date. Homeworks will comprise 15% of the final grade, and will be circulated the week preceding their due date.

Students will also complete a final project. This project will consist of an original research paper where students will pose a question (or set of questions), collect relevant data, perform analyses, and write-up their findings. More information regarding the details of the project will be given at the midpoint of the semester. The project grade will count for 25% of the final course grade.

There will be two exams (as noted on the schedule). Each exam will make up 30% of the final course grade.

Final letter grades for the course will be assigned as follows:

- 92.5% ≤ A
- 90.0% – 92.49% = A-
- 87.5% – 89.99% = B+
- 82.5% – 87.49% = B
- 77.5% – 79.99% = C+
- 72.5% – 77.49% = C
- 70.0% – 72.49% = C-
- 67.5% – 69.99% = D+
- 62.5% – 67.49% = D
- 60.0% – 62.49% = D-
- 59.99% ≥ F

Class Participation:

Students are expected to attend lectures and to participate by asking questions and answering questions that I raise in class.

Course Policies:

Assignments are to be handed in at the beginning of class. If you are unable to attend class, you remain responsible for handing in assignments before the time that class begins. Only under extraordinary circumstances, in which students have made previous arrangements with me, will I accept late work. If previous arrangements are not made, students will receive no credit for late assignments. Similarly, students will not be granted additional time to prepare for exams, except
where there is compelling reason for doing so. A request for an extension must be arranged in ad-
ance, and must be accompanied by a recommendation from a recognized authority (i.e., physician
or an academic dean). Grades of incomplete will only be granted for the most severe circumstances
(i.e., death in family, health complications, etc.) that prevent students from completing the course
as scheduled. A request for a grade of incomplete must be supported with a recommendation from
a recognized authority, as in the case of a request for an extension. In addition, it will not be
possible for students to submit extra assignments intended to offset missing work or work on which
students performed poorly (including exams).

Contacting the Instructor:

Students are encouraged to use office hours. If students are unable to attend office hours, but would
like to meet with me, please contact me via email to arrange an appointment. I am typically quick
to respond to such emails. I, unfortunately, cannot guarantee that I will be able to meet with
students that come to my office without first scheduling a time to see me.

Disability Policy:

This course is open to all students who meet the academic requirements for participation. Any
student who has a need for accommodations based on the impact of a disability should contact the
instructor privately to discuss the specific situation as soon as possible. Contact Disability Resources
and Services at 215.204.1280 in 100 Ritter Annex to coordinate reasonable accommodations for
students with documented disabilities.

Statement of Academic Freedom:

Freedom to teach and freedom to learn are inseparable facets of academic freedom. The Univer-
sity has adopted a policy on Student and Faculty Academic Rights and Responsibilities (Policy
#03.70.02) which can be accessed through the following link: http://policies.temple.edu/
getdoc.asp?policy_no=.03.70.02.

Academic Integrity:

No form of academic dishonesty will be tolerated in this course. Discussion of course material with
fellow students is a valuable learning technique and is strongly encouraged. However, copying or
plagiarizing another persons work or cheating on an assignment or an examination is unacceptable.
Anyone found guilty of cheating, plagiarism or of any other violation of academic integrity will
automatically receive a grade of 0.0 for the assignment or exam. Depending on the circumstances,
a course grade of 0.0 may be given with the matter referred to the University Dean for further
action.
Schedule of Topics and Readings:

The schedule of topics and readings is listed below. The instructor reserves the right to alter the readings in a timely fashion according to the progress of the class.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tr>
<td>August 30</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 6</td>
<td>Measurement and Sampling</td>
<td>Chapters 1-2</td>
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<td>September 13</td>
<td>Description, Central Tendency, and Variation</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
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<td>September 20</td>
<td>Probability Distributions and Inference</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
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<td>September 27</td>
<td>Estimation, Proportions, and Sample Size</td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
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<td>October 4</td>
<td>Significance testing and Errors</td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
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<td>October 11</td>
<td>MIDTERM EXAM</td>
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<td>October 18</td>
<td>Small Sample Inference</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<td>October 25</td>
<td>Comparing Means and Proportions, and Small</td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
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<td>November 1</td>
<td>Tables, Categorical Variables, and Linear</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 8</td>
<td>Simple Linear Regression</td>
<td>Chapter 9</td>
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<td>November 15</td>
<td>Multiple Regression</td>
<td>Chapter 10-11.2</td>
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<td>November 22</td>
<td>No Class (Thanksgiving Break)</td>
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<td>November 29</td>
<td>FINAL EXAM</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 6</td>
<td>Presentation of Projects (Optional)</td>
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