Political Analysis
POSC 311 (51955R)

Professor ———-
Dr. Jennifer Cryer
Crow CPA (CPA), #301B
213-740-1695
jenncryer,youcanbook.me
@JennCryer
jcryer@usc.edu

Course Info. ————
Mondays & Wednesdays
2:00PM - 3:20PM
To Be Determined!
Computer Required
blackboard.usc.edu

Office Hours ————
Mondays & Wednesdays
4:00PM - 5:00PM, or by appt.
Zoom ID: 971 9890 0557

Grader ————
Kayla Wolfe
Crow CPA, 327
kewolf@usc.edu

Overview
This course will introduce students to analysis, research questions, research designs, ethical scholarship, & the development of theory. Further, the course will address approaches to research, both qualitative & quantitative in design. Empirical analysis methods from explanatory & case-based research to experimental & survey designs will be taught—with examples drawn from political behavior, comparative, & IR scholarship. Additionally, we will build coding skill using R software. Students learn to develop & analyze data, while also critically evaluating methods.

Objectives
• Gain understanding of rigorous analytical methodologies, designs, & concepts
• Improve research writing clarity & master political science discourse norms
• Execute basic to intermediate level features of the R programming language

Materials
Downloadable Software
R a free open-source analysis software (http://cran.wustl.edu)
RStudio a free IDE interface for R (https://www.rstudio.com)

Textbook
Kosuke Imai. Quantitative Social Science: An Introduction. 2018 (USC Bookstore)

Assignments and Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>D+</th>
<th>C−</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>C+</th>
<th>B−</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>B+</th>
<th>A−</th>
<th>A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>&lt;60</td>
<td>60-65</td>
<td>66-69</td>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>73-75</td>
<td>76-79</td>
<td>80-82</td>
<td>83-85</td>
<td>86-89</td>
<td>90-94</td>
<td>≥95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPA</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Article Analysis Assignments
Students will complete two (2) 2 to 3 page analyses of peer-reviewed articles discussed in class. Students will identify the research questions, describe data sources, explain concepts & measurement of variables, & evaluate the method of analysis. They will then critically assess each, identifying the intellectual merit & rigor, and connecting both scholar decisions & findings to broader impacts. All papers should be well-written & proofread for clarity, with Chicago Manual of Style citations.

Applied Problem Sets
Students will complete four (4) multi-question problem sets, testing knowledge of R coding techniques, research methods, & research theories, by uploading the .pdf to Blackboard &/or handing in a paper copy. Student are allowed to collaborate with other individuals—however collaborator names must be included at the top of the document, & all responses (code and text) should be in your own words.

Research Design Project
Students will complete one (1) max ten page research project that will outline a research design, highlighting a critical problem in the literature, a theoretical contribution, hypotheses, & featuring some data collection & data analysis using R.

Acknowledgements: This course design was inspired by syllabi from Dr. James Lo’s POSC311 @ USC, & Dr. Yiqing Xu’s PS150A @ Stanford.
Accessibility & Course Design

It is the USC’s goal that learning experiences be as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience physical, psychological, or academic barriers based on disability/condition, please let me know immediately so that we can discuss the adjustments necessary to overcome the limitations of the course design and ensure your inclusion. You may consult the Office of Disability Services and Programs to facilitate this conversation at 1-213-740-0776 or DSPFrontDesk@usc.edu.

Emergency Preparedness

In the event of an emergency, USC will provide up-to-date information via the Department of Public Safety website & TrojansAlert messages. In a declared emergency where travel to campus is infeasible, USC will announce an electronic mode of instruction. Report incidents directly to the USC Department of Public Safety at 1-213-740-4321 (University Park campus) or 1-323-442-1000 (Health Sciences campus), & be familiar with Campus Safety and Emergency Preparedness policy.

Diversity and Inclusivity

I welcome individuals of all ages, backgrounds, ethnicities, gender identities, gender expressions, national origins, religious affiliations, sexual orientations, ability, beliefs, ideologies - and other visible & non-visible differences. Members of this class are expected to contribute to a respectful and inclusive environment for every other member. Incidents of bias, hate crimes & microaggressions can be reported to the Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title IX at 1-213-740-5086 or eeotix@usc.edu, to allow for appropriate investigation and response.

Academic Conduct & Integrity

The USC Office of Student Judicial Affairs & Community Standards has severe sanctions for academic misconduct. Academic dishonesty can include, Plagiarism or presenting someone’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in similarly-phrased words, without attribution. Or Contract Cheating i.e. submission of course work done by others on your behalf without receiving authorization. Students are expected to be familiar with all USC Dornsife policies on student integrity.

Mental Health & Crisis Intervention

If harmful experiences outside of the course impact your life, please consult with the USC Student Counseling Services, which provides free & confidential mental health treatment for students, at 1-213-740-7711 or Campus Support & Intervention, which provides academic support & crisis intervention, at 1-213-740-0411.

Basic Needs Security

If you have difficulty affording/accessing sufficient food to eat every day, accessing technological services, or lack a safe & viable place to live, & you believe that this may affect your performance in this course, please visit The Student Basic Needs Department at 3730 McClintock Ave #135, Los Angeles, CA 90089.

Relationship & Sexual Violence Prevention

USC Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services provides immediate & confidential therapy for situations related to sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, etc. Contact the on-call counselor at USC Engmann Student Health Center to confidentially discuss options, rights, & support at 1-213-740-9355 (WELL) (press “0 after-hours) or in Suite 356.
**Class Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading 1</th>
<th>Reading 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/17</td>
<td>HOLIDAY</td>
<td>NO CLASS</td>
<td>NO CLASS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/31</td>
<td>CITI Responsible Conduct of Research Training Due</td>
<td>By 11:59PM, Uploaded to Blackboard</td>
<td>By 11:59PM, Uploaded to Blackboard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/9</td>
<td>Article Response #1 Due</td>
<td>By 11:59PM, Uploaded to Blackboard</td>
<td>By 11:59PM, Uploaded to Blackboard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/14</td>
<td>Case Studies &amp; Case Selection</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Activity</td>
<td>Details</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/21</td>
<td>HOLIDAY</td>
<td>NO CLASS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/28</td>
<td>Article Response #2 Due</td>
<td>By 11:59PM, Uploaded to Blackboard</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Richard Bensel. *Law, Identity, & the Polling Place in the Mid-Nineteenth Century*, 01, 2003  

**MODULE 5: 🚀 for Empirical Analysis with Quantitative Research Methods**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**MODULE 6: Addressing the Problem of Causal Inference in Political Research**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/9</td>
<td>Due: PSet #1 - Measuring Bias in Turnout</td>
<td>By 11:59PM, Uploaded to Blackboard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/14</td>
<td>HOLIDAY</td>
<td>NO CLASS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/16</td>
<td>HOLIDAY</td>
<td>NO CLASS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chad Kendall et al. “How Do Voters Respond to Information?” 2014  
**3/28**  |  💬 Due: PSet #2 - Using Surveys to Test Political Efficacy  |  By 11:59PM, Uploaded to Blackboard
---|---|---
**3/28**  |  Discussion: Natural Experiments & Difference-in-Differences  |  
**3/30**  |  Research Design Brief Workshop  |  
---|---|---
**MODULE 7: Predicting Outcomes & The Regression Model**
**4/4**  |  Introduction to Regression Analysis  |  
---|---|---
**4/6**  |  QSS Lab: National News Effects on Voting Outcomes  |  
* Kosuke Imai. “Prediction”. Chap. 4 in *Quant. Soc. Sci.* 2018
---|---|---
**MODULE 8: On Error in Estimates—Noise, Uncertainty, Random Variables & Probability**
**4/11**  |  💬 Due: PSet #3 - Using Regression To Study $ Transfers  |  By 11:59PM, Uploaded to Blackboard
---|---|---
**4/11**  |  Probability and Uncertainty in Our Measurements  |  
* Kosuke Imai. “Probability”. Chap. 6 in *Quant. Soc. Sci.* 2018
---|---|---
**4/13**  |  QSS Lab: Publication Bias in Academic Research - Hypothesis Testing & t-Tests  |  
* Kosuke Imai. “Uncertainty”. Chap. 7 in *Quant. Soc. Sci.* 2018
---|---|---
**4/18**  |  QSS Lab: Predicting the 2016 Election with Attention to Errors  |  
* Kosuke Imai. “Uncertainty”. Chap. 7 in *Quant. Soc. Sci.* 2018
---|---|---
**4/20**  |  Addressing Statistical Biases: The Other Source of Error  |  
---|---|---
**MODULE 9: DIY Poli Sci—Summarizing the Basics of Political Analysis**
**4/25**  |  💬 Due: PSet # 4 - Effects of Crisis on Poli Engagement  |  By 11:59PM, Uploaded to Blackboard
---|---|---
**4/25**  |  Research Design Project Peer Review & Workshop  |  
---|---|---
**4/27**  |  Course Recap  |  
---|---|---
**5/9**  |  💬 Due: Research Design Project  |  By 11:59PM, Uploaded to Blackboard
---|---|---

**Representation in Course Materials**
The American Political Science Association has identified representing the diversity of the profession as a core objective. Thus, I welcome your suggestions to improve this course such that assigned scholarship addresses the perspectives, approaches, & epistemologies of all backgrounds.