

 FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY	NEW COURSE PROPOSAL Graduate Programs		UGPC Approval _____ UFS Approval _____ SCNS Submittal _____ Confirmed _____ Banner _____ Catalog _____	
	Department Political Science College Arts and Letters <i>(To obtain a course number, contact erudolph@fau.edu)</i>			
Prefix POS Number 6746	<i>(L = Lab Course; C = Combined Lecture/Lab; add if appropriate)</i> Lab Code	Type of Course	Course Title Quantitative Methods in Political Science	
Credits <i>(Review Provost Memorandum)</i> 3	Grading <i>(Select One Option)</i> Regular Sat/UnSat	Course Description <i>(Syllabus must be attached; see Guidelines)</i> This course examines and evaluates research methods and their application for political science students. It aims to ensure that graduate students in political science are able to conduct a research project; interpret, implement, and employ basic research tools and methods.		
Effective Date <i>(TERM & YEAR)</i> Fall 2021	Prerequisites Academic Service Learning (ASL) course Academic Service Learning statement must be indicated in syllabus and approval attached to this form.			
<i>Prerequisites, Corequisites and Registration Controls are enforced for all sections of course.</i>		Corequisites	Registration Controls <i>(For example, Major, College, Level)</i>	
Minimum qualifications needed to teach course: Member of the FAU graduate faculty and has a terminal degree in the subject area (or a closely related field.)		List textbook information in syllabus or here Mehmet Mehmetoglu and Tor Georg Jakobsen. Applied Statistics Using Stata: A Guide for the Social Sciences Lisa A. Baglione. Writing a Research Paper in Political Science: A Practical Guide to Inquiry, Structure, and Methods		
Faculty Contact/Email/Phone gurses@fau.edu/561-2973213		List/Attach comments from departments affected by new course		

Approved by Department Chair _____ College Curriculum Chair _____ College Dean <u>Eric Berlatsky</u> UGPC Chair _____ UGC Chair _____ Graduate College Dean _____ UFS President _____ Provost _____	Date <u>10/15/20</u> <u>10/27/20</u> <u>10/27/2020</u> _____ _____ _____ _____
--	--

Email this form and syllabus to UGPC@fau.edu 10 days before the UGPC meeting.

POS 6746

QUANTITATIVE METHODS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

M 4:00 – 6:50 (GS 116)
3 credits

Fall 2020

Prof. Mehmet Gurses

Office: SO 391E

Office hours: M 2:00-4:00 &T; R 2:00-3:30

Telephone: 561-297-3213

Email: gurses@fau.edu



TA name	N/A
Office	N/A
Office hours	N/A
Telephone	N/A
Email	N/A

Course Description

Why do we call our discipline “political science”? What kinds of research do political scientists do, and how do they communicate that knowledge to one another? How do we know what we think we know? How do we measure political phenomena? How do we analyze data, and what are good data to analyze?

During the course of the semester, we will first discuss these issues and others and then move to interpret, implement, and employ basic research tools and methods. It is an applied course, but for applications to be performed there is a fundamental level of theoretical knowledge required. Many mistakes are made by those who only know to interpret findings and use ‘canned’ computer packages.

This is a demanding but also extremely rewarding and helpful class. The skills that you develop in the course will help you understand the literature that you read in substantive seminars, help you evaluate that research, enable you to better understand the assumptions behind each research design, help you find published research and data archives on topics that interest you, and familiarize you with some of the techniques used in individual and aggregate level analysis.

Instructional Method

This class is designated as a synchronous in person class and is scheduled to take place at a set time one time each week. Students are expected to attend classes during the scheduled time in order to be awarded full attendance points. Attendance may be in person in the designated classroom (GS 116) or may be remote at a location of the student’s

COVID-19 Statement

All students in face-to-face classes are required to wear masks during class, and students must sanitize their own workstations upon entering the classroom. Taking these measures supports the safety and protection of the FAU community. Students who do not adhere to these rules will be asked to leave the classroom and/or be removed from the course. Students experiencing flu-like symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath), or students who have come in contact with an infected person should immediately contact FAU Student Health Services (561-297-3512).

choosing. However, given the nature of the class, in-person participation is strongly recommend. Recordings of the class will not routinely be included although PowerPoints and links to any in-class videos may be made available.

Prerequisites/Corequisites: None

Course Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes

This course is research seminar that covers research methods and their application for political science students. The goal of the course is to ensure that graduate students in political science are able to conduct a research project; interpret, implement, and employ basic research tools and methods. The emphasis is on the acquisition and understanding of analytical techniques.

Course Evaluation Method

Research Project: The purpose of this project is to develop your ability to conduct research, to think and write critically and analytically. This requires that you develop certain skills as well as familiarity with the research production process. Accordingly, you are expected to develop your research paper in three cumulative installments. Completing each of these installments is not optional. You may not pass the course by turning in nothing but a final draft.

In order to complete the term paper requirement for this course, you must complete a research paper on a *specific* issue. You are expected to state (1) research question; (2) theoretical framework; (3) drive concise and clear hypotheses; (4) data and variables to be used in the analysis; (5) tests and methods that will be used to evaluate the hypotheses; and (6) present results.

Installment #1 (Due Sep 28th)

Choose a research project topic and determine the roadmap for your project. Specifically, you should be able to answer the following questions: 1- What is your research question? Why did you pick that question? What is your outcome variable? How is it measured? What are your key independent/explanatory variables? What is/are your hypotheses?

Installment # 2 (Due Oct 26th)

Write a short introduction, literature review, and theoretical framework from which your hypotheses are derived. You should state your hypotheses clearly.

Installment # 3 (Due Dec 10th)

Your final draft should include a research design and analysis. The data you use for the analysis is something that you should already have or have access to. Data collection is not a topic we are covering in this course and time spent building large complex datasets will detract from ability to complete the paper adequately.

Statistical output or data analysis you do should be fully interpreted as though it were sent for publication to a journal. This means that statistical outputs copied into a word processor document is unacceptable. You should take the time to typeset the results into a meaningful table or present a well-documented and coherent graphical summary of any results. If you have any questions about what should include in your data output and assignments, consult empirical work in standard journals (APSR, ISQ, SSQ, AJPS, etc.) or ask.

The final research paper will be approximately 15-20 pages in length (double-spaced, 12 point font) and due by December 10th. Late papers will be penalized one letter grade for each day they are late (including weekends). **The term-paper is worth 70% of your total grade.**

Participation: The course is divided into several major topical sections as described in the accompanying schedule of assignments. Readings are assigned by topic and date. On the assigned date all students should be prepared to discuss all reading assignments in class; specific responsibility for individual readings may be assigned by the instructor if the discussion flags. Attendance, which is of course necessary for such class participation, is expected/required. **Participation is worth 30% of your total grade.**

Course Grading Scale

Grading Scale: A 93-100; A- 90-92; B+ 87-89; B 83-86; B- 80-82; C+ 77-79; C 73-76; C- 70-72; D+ 67-69; D 63-66; D- 60-62; F 0-59.

Policy on Makeup Tests, Late Work, and Incompletes (if applicable)

*In order to receive a passing grade in the course, students must complete all of the requirements for the course.

*Exceptions to the above rules are granted at the instructor's discretion, normally by prior approval, and only under circumstances of extreme personal emergency or serious illness. In all instances, appropriate evidentiary documentation may be requested to waive course rules.

*I take academic dishonesty very seriously. Students are bound by University rules governing conduct and performance, particularly to questions of cheating and plagiarism.

*Chronic absences will be taken into account in reaching a decision on a final grade for students.

*All students are expected to complete all assigned readings before they are discussed in class and they are expected to discuss and respond to random questioning by the instructor.

*I do not give extra -credit or other compensatory assignments. Please do not ask.

*The reading and course schedule is subject to change. Students are responsible for making sure that they are aware of any changes.

*Disruptive behavior is not tolerated. Cell phones and pagers must be turned off during the class.

Special Course Requirements (if applicable): N/A

Classroom Etiquette Policy

Netiquette: Due to the casual communication common in the online environment, students are sometimes tempted to relax their grammar, spelling, and/or professionalism. Please remember that you are adult students and professionals—your communication should be appropriate. For more in-depth information, please see the FAU statement on netiquette.

Classroom Etiquette/Disruptive Behavior Policy Statement: Disruptive behavior is defined in the FAU Student Code of Conduct as "... activities which interfere with the educational mission within classroom." Students who disrupt the educational experiences of other students and/or the instructor's course objectives in a face-to-face or online course are subject to disciplinary action. Such behavior impedes students' ability to learn or an instructor's ability to teach. Disruptive behavior may include but is not limited to non-approved use of electronic devices (including cellular telephones); cursing or shouting at others in such a way as to be disruptive; or, other

violations of an instructor's expectations for classroom conduct. For more information, please see the FAU Office of Student Conduct.

The course promotes interactive class discussion. Toward this end, students are expected to read assignments and participate in the discussion of designated readings offered each session. The readings listed for each week should be read BEFORE that week in order to maximize discussion opportunities. Further, classes will NOT be recorded without prior notice to ensure an environment of open dialog. Students may NOT record lectures, discussions, or other meetings without the express consent of the instructor.

It is expected that students will treat each other with the utmost respect. In order to enhance and maintain a productive atmosphere for education, personal communication devices, such as cellular telephones and pagers, are to be disabled in class sessions.

Electronic Communication Policy: In addition to the University's policy, please consider the following:

- Privacy, confidentiality, and security in all electronic communications.
- All electronic communication resources must be used for the course and in alignment with to the University mission.
- Prohibited use of false identity, false identity pseudonyms, or anonymous (sender's name or electronic identification is hidden).
- Access without consent.
- Disruption of services including introducing computer contaminants (viruses).
- Harassment of any kind.

Please see the Office of Information Technology's policies on Cyber Security Awareness.

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all of their scheduled University classes and to satisfy all academic objectives as outlined by the instructor. The effect of absences upon grades is determined by the instructor, and the University reserves the right to deal at any time with individual cases of non-attendance. Students are responsible for arranging to make up work missed because of legitimate class absence, such as illness, family emergencies, military obligation, court-imposed legal obligations or participation in University-approved activities. Examples of University-approved reasons for absences include participating on an athletic or scholastic team, musical and theatrical performances and debate activities. It is the student's responsibility to give the instructor notice prior to any anticipated absences and within a reasonable amount of time after an unanticipated absence, ordinarily by the next scheduled class meeting. Instructors must allow each student who is absent for a University-approved reason the opportunity to make up work missed without any reduction in the student's final course grade as a direct result of such absence.

A student who misses a lecture is solely responsible to find out about all announcements made during that lecture, including but not limited to possible changes made to this syllabus.

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center

Life as a university student can be challenging physically, mentally and emotionally. Students who find stress negatively affecting their ability to achieve academic or personal goals may wish to consider utilizing FAU's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center. CAPS provides FAU students a range of services – individual counseling, support meetings, and psychiatric

services, to name a few – offered to help improve and maintain emotional well-being. For more information, go to <http://www.fau.edu/counseling/>

Disability Policy

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA), students who require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and follow all SAS procedures. SAS has offices across three of FAU's campuses – Boca Raton, Davie and Jupiter – however disability services are available for students on all campuses. For more information, please visit the SAS website at www.fau.edu/sas/.

Code of Academic Integrity

Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the university mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the university community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see [University Regulation 4.001](#).

Course Policy Changes and Amendments

Amendments to assignments, grading policies, or any other course policy may be changed based upon the class performance. Any such changes will be announced in class and students are responsible for those changes.

Copyright

The lectures delivered in this class and the course materials created and distributed are protected by federal copyright law as original works. Lectures/ Power Points are delivered from written lectures in order to ensure copyright protection. You are permitted to take notes of lectures and use course materials for your use in this course. **You may not record, reproduce, or distribute my lectures/notes for any commercial purpose without written consent of the specific instructor.**

Required Texts/Readings

Mehmet Mehmetoglu and Tor Georg Jakobsen. *Applied Statistics Using Stata: A Guide for the Social Sciences*. (Sage, 2017).

Lisa A. Baglione. *Writing a Research Paper in Political Science: A Practical Guide to Inquiry, Structure, and Methods*, 3rd ed. (Los Angeles: Sage, 2015).

Course Topical Outline

The dates listed for each topic are approximate and will depend on how quickly we move through the material. You need to study the assigned readings before the date listed as I will be covering

the material on the date given below. *Note that this is not a contract.* It is subject to change at my discretion.

Week 1 (August 24): Overview and Introduction: Thinking and Studying Scientifically
Read Baglione Ch. 2

Week 2 (August 31): Research Design
Read Mehmetoglu and Jakobsen (MJ) Ch. 1

Week 3 (Sep 7): Labor Day-No Class

Week 4 (Sep 14): Measurement & Hypothesis Testing
Read Mehmetoglu and Jakobsen (MJ) Ch. 1 & Baglione Ch. 5

Week 5 (Sep 21): Research project workshop - 1st Installment Presentation

Week 6 (Sep 28): Introduction to Stata
Read MJ Ch. 2
First Installment Due

Week 7 (Oct 5): Bivariate Regression
Read MJ Ch. 3

Week 8 (Oct 12): Multiple Regression Analysis
Read MJ Ch. 4 and 7

Week 9 (Oct 19): Multiple Regression Analysis (Cont'd)
Read MJ Ch. 4 and 7

Week 10 (Oct 26): Research project workshop
Second Installment Due

Week 11 (Nov 2): Dummy-Variable Regression Analysis
Read MJ Ch. 5 and 8

Week 12 (Nov 9): Dummy-Variable Regression Analysis (Cont'd)
Read MJ Ch. 5 and 8

Week 13 (Nov 16): Research project workshop and presentations

Week 14 (Nov 23): Research project workshop and presentations

Week 15 (Nov 30): Online class
December 7-9: Reading Days

Week 16 (Dec 10-16): Final Exam Week
December 10: Final Paper DUE