

Applied Quantitative Research Methods

Fall 2011: PSC 202.01 Applied Quantitative Research Methods

Tuesdays, 11:00 am-12:15 pm Goddard 220

Thursdays, 11:00 am-12:15 pm Webb Hall 206

Dr. Helma de Vries

Eastern Connecticut State University, Department of Political Science

Office Location: Webb Hall 341

Office Hours: Mondays, 2 – 3 pm;

Tuesdays, 12:30 – 3:45 pm;

Thursdays, 8:30 – 9:15 am

Contact E-mail:

- Please use the Mail function on WebCT Vista to read and send messages.
- The course website is available via: <http://its.easternct.edu/webct/>
- In case of emergency: devriesh@easternct.edu
- Please use a professional writing style and include a salutation and a closing.

Course Content:

Welcome to Applied Quantitative Methods! The purpose of this course is to provide students with a working knowledge of the theory and practice underlying quantitative political science research. Specifically, the course will provide practical experience utilizing a variety of methodologies commonly employed in quantitative political science research, as well as utilizing SPSS. Special attention will be paid to the scientific method, ethics in social science research, choosing the appropriate research design for a particular research question, the use of simple quantitative techniques for data analysis and the presentation of research findings.

This course will ask students to consider appropriate research designs for answering specific research questions in political science, via a literature review they will conduct of recent quantitative research concerning a particular dependent variable. Students will be asked at the end of the course to propose a research design that makes improvements on this past research.

Intensive reading, consistent attendance, and active participation in discussions are required for the course. The assigned materials should be read before class on the date they are listed. Writing for the course is expected to be of a high caliber, involving critical analysis and concrete evidence, which should stimulate an engaging class discussion.

It is expected that students follow news coverage of political events on a regular basis and come to class ready to discuss these events and the research being cited in the news. Come prepared to discuss the issues raised in the readings and in world politics! There are many political vantage points represented amongst your peers. I expect you to consider both sides, to be respectful of others' opinions, trying to step into their shoes and understand their perspective, and to take turns as devil's advocate, arguing an unpopular position.

The course website is located at <http://its.easternct.edu/webct/>. It is your responsibility to access the website on an ongoing basis, several times a week. You can always find the most up-to-date syllabus on the website. The Mail function is used for reading and sending messages. Assignments will be submitted on the website using the Assignment function, and they will be reviewed for plagiarism via a tool called SafeAssign. **Please note: you must also turn in paper copies of the assignments for this course on the dates that they are due.**

Objectives:

1. Students will become familiarized with the broad palette of quantitative research methods used by political scientists and immerse themselves in state-of-the-art research.
2. Students will gain expertise in a particular sub-field of research in Political Science.
3. Students will gain comfort using a variety of methodological techniques, working with different types of data, and understanding the strengths and weaknesses of different methods of obtaining evidence concerning the political realm.
4. Students will learn about the theories and underlying assumptions driving scientific research in political science, as well as the methods used to test the observable implications of those rival arguments quantitatively. Students will read, synthesize, and analyze research examples through in-class presentations and writing. Iteration will help improve these skills.
5. Students will gain experience presenting their ideas and analysis verbally and in writing. The course will culminate in a research paper that showcases students' ability to synthesize the academic literature, critically analyze the arguments and evidence that are presented, and consider alternative methods for conducting further research.

Required Textbook:

Bryman, Alan. 2008. *Social Research Methods*, 3rd ed. Oxford University Press. ISBN-13: 9780199202959

Grading Distribution:

- Exam 1 (20 points)
- Exam 2 (20 points)
- Participation and Engagement in Class Activities, Debates, and Discussions (20 points)
- Research Paper Proposal (5 points)
- Literature Review (15 points)
- Final Paper with Research Design (20 points)

Grading Policy:

When students receive grades on any individual assignment, your raw score is listed (the points received for that assignment). At the end of the semester, all these scores are added up. The maximum number of points a student can receive is 100 points. Listed below is the system by which the total sum of grades (also a percentage) will be converted to a final letter grade.*

Under 62.99% = F;	63.0-66.99 % = D;	67.0-69.99 % = D+;
70.0-72.99 % = C-;	73.0-76.99 % = C;	77.0-79.99 % = C+;
80.0-82.99 % = B-;	83.0-86.99 % = B;	87.0-89.99 % = B+;
90.0-92.99 % = A-;	93.0 or higher = A	

*** Please note that if a student engages in academic misconduct such as plagiarism or if the student misses three or more class sessions as unexcused absences, the instructor may revert the student's final grade to the grade of F, regardless of the sum of grades.**

Late Assignment Policy:

Our reading and homework schedule must be adhered to in a timely matter. Assignments must be submitted punctually using the “Assignment” function on WebCT Vista as well as via a paper copy submitted punctually at the start of class on the due date.

After this deadline, the following deductions for lateness may take place:

- Assignment received within the first 24 hours: **-10% value of assignment.**
- Assignment received within the first 48 hours: **-20% value of assignment.**
- Unless there are mitigating circumstances and the student has previous written approval from the instructor for an extension, assignments received over 48 hours past the deadline will NOT be accepted any longer and will be assigned 0 points.

Exam 1 and Exam 2 (20 points each, scheduled for October 11 and November 8):

Two exams will be conducted. These exams cover all the material read and presented in the lectures prior to the date of the exam. The exams involve essay questions and sometimes involve multiple choice sections or short answer questions. The exam format will be discussed in class, several sessions in advance of the actual exam session.

Quizzes:

If students are not participating in class or keeping up with the readings, the instructor may announce a quiz for the next class, which will count as part of the participation score or as part of an exam score.

Participation and Engagement in Class Activities, Debates, and Discussions (20 points)

Students are expected to attend all course sessions punctually and actively participate in the course discussions, activities, and group work. Intensive reading is required for the course, and students are expected to come to class ready to discuss the day’s scheduled reading assignment as well as relevant news coverage. Students are expected to apply their own ideas, examples, and critical thinking in response to the readings. Class work is expected to be of a high caliber, involving critical analysis, grounded with concrete evidence. In our discussions, please consider both sides, be respectful of others’ opinions, try to understand their perspective, and take turns as the devil’s advocate, arguing an unpopular position.

Research Paper Proposal (5 points, due November 15)

Students will focus on a dependent variable that has been studied using quantitative methods. Students will write a 3 page proposal which is due on November 15:

- Focusing on a particular dependent variable
- Summarizing key research findings on this topic
- Highlighting important independent variables / causal factors and tying them to competing theoretical arguments about the topic
- Describing data that has been used to test hypotheses concerning the topic
- Evaluating concerns regarding past quantitative research on this topic
- Discussing a possible research design to improve on past research
- Citing relevant literature parenthetically and in the references list

A paper copy of the assignment is due at the start of class, and an electronic copy is due on Vista.

Literature Review (15 points, due November 29)

In this paper of about 12-15 pages which is due November 29, students will summarize and critique previous research on their selected research topic, reviewing at least 15 journal articles. In the literature review, students are expected to discuss key findings and trends in the research. Students should also evaluate the types of research methods used and types of data collected, in the literature, and a critique of the methodological strengths and weaknesses of this research should also be included. This analysis and critique of the previous research will impact the type of research design which the student will propose at the end of the Final Paper.

Students are expected to search for different types of methodological problems in this research, tying the concepts discussed in class together with examples from the research that they are evaluating. Methodological problems that may be discussed include (but are by no means limited to) the availability of data, selection bias in sampling, threats to the validity or reliability of measurements used, or the omission of key causal factors that should have been controlled for.

Students may find that they can make a theoretical contribution by drawing together several different strands of literature which have not previously been connected (and are as yet understudied). Students are encouraged to explore pertinent literature in fields such as Political Science, Public Policy, History, Psychology, Sociology, Anthropology, and Economics.

You are expected to edit earlier drafts of this paper, and you must properly cite your work using parenthetical citations and references. Students will receive feedback concerning this work from their peers and from the instructor. A paper copy of the assignment is due in person at the start of class, and an electronic copy is due on Vista, on the due date.

Final Paper with Research Design (20 points, due December 8)

In the final paper which is due on December 8, you will revise your literature review, assess what improvements need to occur in the research on this topic, and develop an argument to support your own research design proposal. In this research design proposal, you will explain and justify what type of research you would propose to conduct to make a further contribution to the field, if you had the opportunity. In a transitional section at the end of the literature review, you will briefly review the relevant findings in the previous research about the dependent variable and key causal factors, discuss which methods were used to obtain evidence, and discuss the pros and cons of the previous research.

Next, in the research design section, you will propose a new study that tries to improve on some of the gaps that you have found in previous research. You need to clearly state which methodologies you are going to use and justify why you are choosing them. It is expected you will address questions of sampling and measurement. Please assess the pros and cons of the study you are proposing. Please note: the research design must incorporate quantitative methods but you may also include a mixed methods approach, if you feel that is justified.

Both a paper copy and an electronic copy of the paper (on Vista) must be submitted by the beginning of the class session on December 8. Students are expected to have edited the entire paper multiple times for argumentative clarity, organization, grammar, punctuation, and spelling. A complete, correctly formatted list of references in the Chicago Style is expected at the end of the paper. All these sources should be cited parenthetically in the text of the paper. Papers which have not been edited considerably or include incorrect citations will receive poor grades.

Tips Regarding Your Papers:

Tips Concerning Submitting Assignments to the Instructor and to the Class:

- You are expected to submit both paper and electronic copies of any paper assignments. Paper copies are due in person at the start of the class session, and electronic copies are due using the Assignment function on WebCT Vista before class starts.
- Please submit your papers as Microsoft Word attachments, but also copy and paste the text of the paper into the message, in case there are any problems with your attachment.
- It is your responsibility to be sure that you check any assignment you submit to be certain that you have submitted the correct, full version of the assignment. In case of an error, you can always resubmit the assignment immediately.
- Your assignments may be posted publicly for other students to read. However, if there are special considerations you have when you submit any assignment, you can make a comment in your assignment, indicating your preference to keep some or all of the contents private.

Tips Concerning the Formatting of Your Papers:

- Microsoft Word document
- Stapled or clipped
- Times New Roman, size 12 point font
- Double-Spaced
- 1 inch margins
- No Title Page
- A title of the paper in quotes at the top of the first page
- Header on each page with your name and the page number
- Indent new paragraphs
- Italicized headings to clarify sections
- Inclusion of parenthetical citations (T) and a list of references (R) (The references should be on a separate page titled References.) Use the following link to format cites and references:

http://web.archive.org/web/20080624033642/http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html

Tips Concerning Writing Your Papers:

- Please include a clear introduction paragraph and a clear conclusion paragraph.
- Each paragraph should have an introductory and concluding sentence that explains what idea you are developing in the paragraph, and how it relates to what precedes and what follows in the paper. These sentences are important in conveying the meaning and the organization/structure of the arguments presented in your paper.
- Use varied transitions to subtly indicate how your argument is developing:
 - Similarly, Likewise, In contrast, In comparison, However, In spite of, On the other hand, Nevertheless, For example, For instance, Namely, Specifically, To illustrate, Accordingly, Consequently, Hence, Therefore, Thus, Indeed, In fact, Additionally, In addition, Further, Furthermore, Moreover, Finally, In conclusion, To conclude, In sum, On the whole, First, Second, Third ..., Next, Then, Before/After, Previously, Currently, Subsequently

- Paragraphs should be at least 4-5 sentences long, on average. Typically, they should be clearly focused, and if you have a 2 sentence paragraph that should be an indicator to you that there are ideas which need development or reorganization.
- On the other hand, paragraphs should not be so extensive that they run longer than half a page to two-thirds of a page in length. If you notice that you have a paragraph that is too long, find a way to break it down into two paragraphs, based on the content.
- Be careful to edit your writing extensively for grammar, clarity, and parsimony. Often when a sentence is excessively long, you need to break it down into two sentences. Check that each sentence clearly conveys what you mean, and make sure it has a subject, verb, et cetera. When you read aloud each sentence, consider whether, if you had no previous information, the statement would be comprehensible.
- Make use of peer review at ECSU's Writing Center.
- A separate page, titled References, that lists references in the Chicago Style format should be included. These sources should be sorted alphabetically and not be numbered.
http://web.archive.org/web/20080624033642/http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html

Academic Integrity:

All your assignments will be checked to ensure that your writing is original and you are properly citing ideas that are not yours originally. Your writing will be checked using the SafeAssign tool in WebCT Vista. Your paper will be submitted and checked against the institutional and global references databases of papers, journal articles, as well as material available on the Internet. It is the understanding and expectation of the instructor that the student submits assignments in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct and in particular, with the Policy on Academic Misconduct. This policy is available at:

<http://www.easternct.edu/ecs/academicmisconduct/definitions.htm>

<http://www.easternct.edu/smithlibrary/library1/plagiarism/AcademicMisconduct.htm>

Academic dishonesty is defined as cheating of any kind, including misrepresenting one's own work, taking credit for the work of others without crediting them and without appropriate authorization, and the fabrication of information. Cheating is not tolerated in my classroom, and I actively pursue punishment for dishonorable academic behavior.

Punishment for academic dishonesty can include receiving a grade of "F" for the course as well as possible subsequent disciplinary action.

Academic Honesty Provisions:

You must properly cite your work using the Chicago Manual of Style. Any quotations should be accompanied by both quotation marks and a parenthetical citation, and any ideas not originally your own but which are paraphrased should be accompanied by a parenthetical citation. Information which is not general knowledge should be substantiated using parenthetical citations. Each parenthetical citation should be accompanied by a reference list entry at the end of the paper.

PLEASE NOTE: You should be paraphrasing ideas in your own words and barely use quotations. I expect to see many citations and references which are correctly formatted.

- Please refer to this link for help on citation:
http://web.archive.org/web/20080624033642/http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html

- Please pair an in-text parenthetical citation (T) with a reference list entry (R) at the end of a paper.
- Note: **Wikipedia** is **NOT** an acceptable source because it is an open source website subject to considerable bias, but you may use it to access hyperlinks to primary source material.

Please be sure to use this citation style consistently, and to cite appropriately:

- First of all, the papers you are writing for this course should require you to use few quotations.
- All information that is paraphrased in your own words should have a parenthetical citation to the original source.
- All quotes should have “...” around them, as well as a parenthetical citation.
- It is not appropriate to merely “plunk down” quotes into a paper. They should be used selectively (no more than one short quote per paragraph), they should be introduced, and they should include at least one sentence explaining their relevance.
- No more than one direct quotation should be included per paragraph, on average!!!! (A paper should not be composed largely of quotes, and you should be very careful in your notes to distinguish quotes, so that you do not plagiarize from someone else’s material.)
- If you include “...” in your notes and track your sources in your notes, you will be less at risk of plagiarism.
- Make sure that you properly paraphrase your sources, truly putting ideas into your own words. Just changing a word or two, moving around words in a quote, is not paraphrasing. In fact, if you retain parts of a quote, you should leave quotation marks around those groupings of words.

Tips for Finding Useful Research Articles:

Research articles typically are 15-25 pages long, and they present competing theoretical arguments which are tested empirically with evidence.

To access any of the databases listed below where you can search for articles:

<http://www.easternct.edu/smithlibrary/library1/atoz.htm>

To access any of the journals listed below and search for articles:

<http://rk5xp5zc5h.search.serialssolutions.com/>

In case you are in need of help, there are a variety of ways to get assistance at the library:

<http://www.easternct.edu/smithlibrary/library1/askus.htm>

Databases I recommend include:

Project Muse

Academic Search Premier (Ebscohost)

JSTOR

Blackwell Publishing

Sage Journals Online

Ingenta

Worldwide Political Science Abstracts

PAIS International

Columbia International Affairs Online

Key journals in International Relations, Comparative Politics, and Political Science

American Journal of International Law
Comparative Politics
Comparative Political Studies
Democratization
European Journal of International Law
Global Governance
International Affairs
International Studies Quarterly
International Organization
Journal of Democracy
Journal of International Affairs
Journal of International Law and International Relations
The Journal of Politics
Political Science Quarterly
Political Studies
Politics and Society
Political Research Quarterly
PS, Political Science & Politics
Review of International Studies

Journals dealing with different regions of the world

African & Asian Studies
African Studies Review
American Journal of Political Science
American Political Science Review
Asian Affairs
Asian Journal of Political Science
Asian Studies Review
British Journal of Political Science
British Journal of Politics and International Relations
Canadian Journal of Political Science
Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East
European Journal of International Relations
European Journal of Political Research
European Review of Latin American & Caribbean Studies
European Union Politics
International Journal of Asian Studies
International Journal of Middle East Studies
Journal of Asian and African Studies
The Journal of Asian Studies
Journal of Contemporary African Studies
Journal of Contemporary Asia
Journal of Latin American Studies
Journal of Southern African Studies

Latin American Politics and Society
The Middle East Journal
Third World Quarterly
Middle East Policy
Middle East Quarterly (useful but often not empirical)
Middle Eastern Studies
West European Politics

Journals focused on Development and Developing Countries

European Journal of Development Research
Gender and Development
Gender, Technology and Development
Journal of Development Studies
Journal of International Development
Journal of International Relations and Development
Journal of Third World Studies
Progress in Development Studies
Third World Quarterly

Journals focused on Gender

Asian Journal of Women's Studies
European Journal of Women's Studies
Gender and Society
Journal of International Women's Studies
Journal of Middle East Women's Studies
Middle East Women's Studies Review
Politics & Gender

Journals focused on Human Rights

Human Rights Quarterly
International Journal of Human Rights
Law and Practice of International Courts and Tribunals

Journals focused on Civil Society

Mobilization
Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly
Nonprofit Management & Leadership
Voluntas

Journals focused on the Media

European Journal of Communication
Global Media and Communication
International Journal of Communication
International Journal of Press/Politics
International Journal of Media & Cultural Politics
New Media & Society

Media, Culture & Society
Political Communication

Journals focused on the Environment

African Journal of Ecology
Environment, Development and Sustainability
Environmental Politics (articles can be requested via inter-library loan)
Global Environmental Politics
International Environmental Agreements: Politics, Law and Economics
International Journal of Sustainable Development and World Ecology
The Journal of Environment and Development
Review of European Community & International Environmental Law

Journals focused on Social Policy

Global Social Policy
Journal of European Social Policy
Journal of Policy Reform
Journal of Poverty
Social Policy (useful but often not empirical)

Journals focused on Immigration, Migration, Citizenship, and Refugee Issues

Citizenship Studies
European Journal of Migration and Law
Immigrants & Minorities
International Journal of Migration, Health & Social Care
International Migration
Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Services
Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies

Journals focused on Public Health

African Journal of Reproductive Health (useful but often not empirical)
American Journal of Public Health
European Journal of Public Health
Health Expectations (useful but often not empirical)
Journal of Health and Social Policy
Journal of HIV/AIDS & Social Services
Journal of Public Health Policy
Journal of Social Development in Africa

Journals focused on Peace, Conflict, and Conflict Resolution

Cooperation and Conflict
Conflict Management and Peace Science
International Journal of Conflict Management
International Journal of Peace Studies
International Negotiation
Journal of Conflict Resolution

Journal of Peace Research
Mobilization
Peace and Conflict

Journals focused on Defense, Foreign and Security Policy

Defence & Peace Economics
Defence Studies
Diplomacy and Statecraft
European Foreign Affairs Review
Foreign Affairs (useful but often not empirical)
Foreign Policy (useful but often not empirical)
Global Governance
International Negotiation
International Security
Journal of Human Security
Studies in Conflict and Terrorism

Journals focused on Criminal Justice

British Journal of Criminology
Canadian Journal of Criminology
European Journal of Crime, Crime Law, and Criminal Justice
European Journal of Criminology
Global Crime
International Criminal Law Review

Journals focused on Political Economy

International Journal of Political Economy
Journal of Political Economy
Oxford review of Economic Policy
Review of International Political Economy
Review of Political Economy

The following link should be used to help with formatting parenthetical citations (T) and references (R) to articles:

http://web.archive.org/web/20080624033642/http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html. Please use parenthetical citations (T) such as (Clark and Schwedler 2003, 295).

Here is an example of a reference entry (R) for the previously cited journal article:

Clark, Janine Astrid, and Jillian Schwedler. 2003. "Who Opened the Window? Women's Activism in Islamist Parties." *Comparative Politics* 35(3): 293-312.

Questions to Consider in Evaluating Research Articles:

1. Arguments in the Literature: What are the most important RIVAL or competing arguments about the topic that are discussed? Which possible causal factors are considered?

2. Trends in the Literature: What are the important trends/findings about the topic that are mentioned?
3. Results: What evidence/data is collected and presented by the author(s)? What are the key findings?
4. Conclusions: What are the main conclusions drawn by the author(s) in light of this evidence? Which arguments are supported or refuted by the evidence that they collected?
5. Critically analyze the arguments being tested, the research design, the results, or the conclusions drawn in the article.
6. Are there new developments that this article may or may not apply to? How?

Ramifications of Your Professionalism:

Please realize that your professionalism is something that I will gauge on several fronts, and it certainly will be essential in determining whether I will be willing to serve as a reference on your behalf in the future. Please take this into consideration in deciding what type of student you want to be in this course. Below are some factors that I will take into consideration. Please realize that they are all important, and that other factors also influence my decisions concerning serving as a reference or writing letters of recommendation, including the timing of a request.

- Enthusiasm and initiative
- Demonstrated punctuality and reliability (e.g., showing up on time to class and to meetings, turning work in on time). These are very important indicators of your maturity and your readiness to be dependable in the workplace or in graduate school.
- Professional behavioral conduct and your demeanor in your interactions with the instructor and with your peers, in class, meetings, e-mails, and discussion board postings
- Quality of work and work ethic (originality of ideas, critical analysis, completeness of work, and quality of revision of final drafts)
- Academic honesty and integrity
- Active learning: having a positive attitude, taking initiative to seek new challenges outside of your comfort zone
- Your understanding of important concepts and theoretical arguments, reflecting your reading of the class materials and participation in class sessions
- Your efforts to keep up with current political events internationally, especially in reading and discussing recent news coverage
- Ability to consider divergent perspectives and engage in respectful debate
- Teamwork and quality of cooperation with other students
- Quality of participation in discussions
- Ability to communicate clearly both verbally and in writing, as well as listening skills
- Ability to follow directions

Attendance:

Students are expected to attend class, having prepared the day's readings, and ready to participate fully in classroom activities. If you miss the attendance, it is your responsibility to make sure to remedy that at the end of class. On dates when assignments are due, attendance is required. On other dates of the class, students are permitted two unexcused absences, but are then also themselves responsible for arranging to get missing lecture notes from other students. I urge students to be careful not to miss class sessions, because it is very easy to get lost if you do.

When students have accumulated three or more unexcused absences, the instructor may decide to give a failing grade in the course. Students will not be penalized for excused absences and will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up missed work, provided they take contact with the instructor in advance and provided they submit the necessary documentation. On a case by case basis, the instructor will consider extenuating circumstances, but it is the student's obligation to be proactive about maintaining contact with the instructor.

Course Website:

The course website is accessed on WebCT through VISTA. On the website, you will need to access some readings, submit assignments, and send and receive messages. You may need to download the latest version of Adobe Acrobat to access some readings. The course website will soon be available via <http://www.easternct.edu/depts/its/webct/>.

Please Note: It is your responsibility to check the website several times a week. Also, you must check your messages and assignments to be sure that you sent the correct version of assignment files. Please note: paper copies of all assignments must be turned in on time the day that an assignment is due.

Cell phones, I-pods, and electronic devices:

Please stow all electronic devices (including earphones) in your bag, and turn them off before class. It is not acceptable to text-message, answer the telephone, or listen to an I-pod during class. Please leave such devices home during exams.

Caveat Concerning the Flexibility of the Course Syllabus:

The instructor reserves the right to make changes in the course based on factors such as key political developments, class discussion, the availability of reading materials, and the performance of the class. Major changes will be announced via an e-mail to the class, and the posting of an updated syllabus. Although such changes will not occur on a weekly basis, some adjustments during the semester may occur so as to maximize students' learning.

AccessAbility Services:

If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact the Office of AccessAbility Services at 860-465-0189. To avoid any delay in the receipt of accommodations, you should contact the Office of AccessAbility Services as soon as possible. Please note that I cannot provide accommodations based upon disability until I have received an accommodation letter from the Office of AccessAbility Services. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Writing Assistance:

The Writing Center (Academic Services Center, Library 107, 860-465-0382) is a useful place to get some feedback on your writing.

Projected Course Schedule:

Date	Topics to be Covered:	Readings that should be completed on this date:
Tuesday, August 30, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Applied Quantitative Methods 	
Thursday, September 01, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Class 	
Tuesday, September 06, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Research Strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SRM Chapter 1
Thursday, September 08, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Designs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SRM Chapter 2
Tuesday, September 13, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning a Project and Formulating Research Questions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SRM Chapter 3
Thursday, September 15, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting Started: Reviewing the Literature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SRM Chapter 4
Tuesday, September 20, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethics and Politics in Social Research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SRM Chapter 5
Thursday, September 22, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Nature of Quantitative Research, Causal versus Descriptive Inference, Case Selection and Selection Bias, Measurement and Operationalization, Reliability, Validity, Generalizability, Replicability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SRM Chapter 6
Tuesday, September 27, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sampling, Case Selection, and Selection Bias 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SRM Chapter 7
Thursday, September 29, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structured Interviewing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SRM Chapter 8
Tuesday, October 04, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-completion Questionnaires 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SRM Chapter 9
Thursday, October 06, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asking Questions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SRM Chapter 10
Tuesday, October 11, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Exam 1</u> 	

Thursday, October 13, 2011	• Structured Observation	• SRM Chapter 11
Tuesday, October 18, 2011	• Content Analysis	• SRM Chapter 12
Thursday, October 20, 2011	• Secondary analysis and official statistics and an Introduction to Univariate Analysis	• SRM Chapter 13
Tuesday, October 25, 2011	• Overview of Quantitative Data Analysis	• SRM Chapter 14
Thursday, October 27, 2011	• Bivariate Analysis and an Introduction to the Graphing of Data	• SRM Chapter 15
Tuesday, November 01, 2011	• Multivariate Analysis	• SRM Chapters 14 and 15
Thursday, November 03, 2011	• Regression Analysis	• SRM Chapters 14 and 15
Tuesday, November 08, 2011	• <u>Exam 2</u>	
Thursday, November 10, 2011	• Research Paper overview and brainstorming	
Tuesday, November 15, 2011	• <u>Research Paper Proposal</u> due	
Thursday, November 17, 2011	• Research Paper preparation and consultations	
Tuesday, November 22, 2011	• Debates in Political Science: Qualitative versus Quantitative Methods	• SRM Chapter 24 • Laitin, David. 2003. "The Perestroikan Challenge to Social Science." <i>Politics & Society</i> 31(1): 163-84.
Thursday, November 24, 2011	• No Class, Thanksgiving	
Tuesday, November 29, 2011	• <u>Literature Review</u> due	• SRM Chapter 24 • Laitin, David. 2003. "The Perestroikan Challenge to Social Science." <i>Politics & Society</i> 31(1): 163-84.
Thursday, December 01, 2011	• Research Paper preparation and consultations	

Tuesday, December 06, 2011	Triangulation and Mixed Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SRM Chapter 25• Laitin, David. 2003. "The Perestroikan Challenge to Social Science." <i>Politics & Society</i> 31(1): 163-84.
Thursday, December 08, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Final Paper with Research Design</u> due	