INTL 4000	Research Design/Quant. Analysis in IA	Spring 2018
T, TR 12:30-1:45	MLC 267	Pre/Corequisites: None
Danny Hill	Dept. of International Affairs	dwhill@uga.edu
Office Hrs: By appointment	Office: Candler 319	

Course Description

This course introduces students to philosophy of science, research design, and quantitative analysis as applied to the study of comparative and international politics. Broad topics covered include epistemology, conceptualization, measurement, causal theories in social science, basic descriptive and inferential statistics, data visualization, measures of bivariate association, and multivariate linear regression.

Course Objectives

This course exposes students to basic concepts related to theory, research design, and quantitative analysis in the social sciences. The first few weeks of the course examine topics from the philosophy of science and their relation to research on international and comparative politics. The rest of the course familiarizes students with basic concepts from statistics, and introduces them to the use of statistical software for data analysis and visualization. Students will develop an understanding of the basic components of social scientific research, including conceptualization and quantitative measurement, as well as how causal theories are constructed and tested in the social sciences. In the latter part of the course students will learn to perform data analysis, beginning with practical issues of data management. By the end of the course students will be comfortable performing analysis to examine relationships between variables, including cross-tabulation and linear regression. A large portion of students' grades will be determined by lab exercises that involve data analysis.

Required Texts

Agresti, Alan and Barbara Finlay. 1997. *Statistical Methods for the Social Sciences.* 3rd ed. Prentice Hall (this is an older edition of the book)

Monogan III, James E. 2015. *Political Analysis Using R.* Springer. (electronic copy available for free through UGA library website)

Grades

Your grades will be based on three exams (including the final exam) and four lab exercises/homework assignments. Your final grade will be determined as follows:

Exam 1: 20%

Exam 2: 20%

Final Exam: 20%

Lab Assignment 1: 10%

Lab Assignment 2: 10%

Lab Assignment 3: 10%

Lab Assignment 4: 10%

Grade Distribution:

90-100: A	80-89: B	70-79: C
60-69: D	59 and below: F	

Examinations

Exams will consist of 10-15 questions that will usually involve some quantitative reasoning and math. For exams I will provide necessary handouts, and you will be allowed to use a calculator. All exams will cover the lecture as well as assigned readings. The final exam is not cumulative.

Lab Exercises/Homework Assignments

We will have five lab sessions throughout the semester and four lab assignments (one of the assignments will be spread out across two lab sessions). The assignments will require you to conduct statistical analysis using a software program called R. Lab time will be used to complete the assignments, and I will be available in the lab to answer questions. These assignments will all be due Friday by 5 p.m. the week they are assigned, so you will have some time outside of the lab to complete them if necessary.

Makeup Exams

An absence from any exam will result in a zero for that exam. *Makeup exams will not be given for any reason. However, the lowest exam grade will be dropped when calculating final grades.* This means that everyone may miss one exam and not be penalized.

Course Website and Email

Can be accessed through www.elc.uga.edu. You will need to check this site regularly for any syllabus updates or for posted readings. Announcements may also be sent out via email. It is your responsibility to check blackboard for syllabus updates.

Syllabus Change Policy

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations in order to participate in course activities or meet course requirements should contact the instructor or designate during regular office hours or by appointment.

University Honor Code/Academic Honesty Policy

As a University of Georgia student, you have agreed to abide by the University's academic honesty policy, "A Culture of Honesty," and the Student Honor Code. All academic work must meet the standards described in "A Culture of Honesty" found at www.uga.edu/honesty. Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a violation. Questions related to course assignments and the academic honesty policy should be directed to the instructor.

Withdrawal Policy

Students who withdraw from the class before the withdrawal deadline are assigned a grade based on their performance (pass/fail) in the class up the point of withdrawal. This means that students who are failing will be assigned a "WF" grade even if they withdraw before the deadline. Students who withdraw from the class after the withdrawal deadline are automatically assigned a "WF" grade upon withdrawal.

Reading Schedule

Week 1

Jan 10: Syllabus review, class overview. No reading.

Week 2

Jan 15: Munck, Gerardo L. and Jay Verkuilen. 2002. "Conceptualizing and Measuring Democracy: Evaluating Alternative Indices." *Comparative Political Studies* 35(1): 5-34.

Jan 17: Russell, Bertrand. 1912. *The Problems of Philosophy*. Chap 4 (available on course website)

Oneal, John R. and Bruce M. Russett. 1997. "The Classical Liberals Were Right Democracy, Interdependence, and Conflict, 1950-1985." *International Studies Quarterly* 41(2): 267-293.

Week 3

Jan 22: Platt, John R. "Strong Inference." *Science* 16 October 1964, Vol. 146, Number 3642.

Schultz, Kenneth A. 1999. "Do Democratic Institutions Constrain or Inform? Contrasting Two Institutional Perspectives on Democracy and War." *International Organization* 53(2): 233-266.

Jan 24: Agresti and Finlay, chap 1.

Monogan, chaps 1 and 2.

Week 4

Jan 29: Agresti and Finlay, pp. 11-15, chap 3.

Jan 31: Monogan, pp. 33-40 and chap 4. Class meets in Candler basement computer lab.

Week 5

Feb 5: Exam 1

Feb 7: Agresti and Finlay, chap 4.

Week 6

Feb 12: Agresti and Finlay, chap 4.

Feb 14: Agresti and Finlay, chap 5.

Week 7

Feb 19: Agresti and Finlay, chap 5.

Feb 21: Agresti and Finlay, chap 6.

Week 8

Feb 26: Agresti and Finlay, chap 6.

Feb 28: Monogan, chap 5. Class meets in Candler basement computer lab.

Week 9

Mar 5: No reading, review for Exam 2

Mar 7: Exam 2

Spring Break, Mar 11–15

Week 10

Mar 19: Agresti and Finlay, chap 7

Mar 21: Agresti and Finlay, chap 7

Week 11

Mar 26: Agresti and Finlay, chap 8

Mar 28: Agresti and Finlay, chap 8

Week 12

Apr 2: Monogan, chap 5. Class meets in Candler basement computer lab.

Apr 4: No class

Week 13

Apr 9: Agresti and Finlay, chap 9

Apr 11: Agresti and Finlay, chap 9

Week 14

Apr 16: Agresti and Finlay, chap 10

Apr 18: Agresti and Finlay, chap 11

Week 15

Apr 23: No reading. Class meets in Candler basement computer lab.

Apr 25: No reading. Class meets in Candler basement computer lab.

Week 16

Apr 30: Review session for final exam.

FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, May 7, 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.