

INTL 4000	Research Design and Analysis for IA	Spring 2025
T/Tr 9:35-10:50	501 Journalism Building	Pre/Corequisites: None
Danny Hill	Dept. of International Affairs	dwhill@uga.edu
Office Hrs: By appointment	Office: 319 IA Building	

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. 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 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 fundamental components of social scientific research, including conceptualization and quantitative measurement, as well as how causal theories can be 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

You are not required to purchase any textbooks for this course. All readings will be available through the eLC course site or the UGA library's website.

Grades

Your grades will be based on two exams (midterm and final), four lab exercises/homework assignments, and course attendance. Each exam and lab assignment will count towards 15% of your final grade, and course attendance will count towards 10% of your final grade.

Grade Distribution (note that I do not assign minus grades):

90 - 100: A	
86 - 89: B+	80 - 85: B
76 - 79: C+	70 - 75: C
66 - 69: D+	60 - 65: D
below 60: F	

Examinations

There will be a midterm and final exam in this course. Both exams will consist of 10-15 questions that will involve some quantitative reasoning and math. I will provide necessary handouts, and you will be allowed to use a calculator. Exams will cover material from class as well as assigned readings. The final exam will have the same format as the midterm exam. The midterm will take place on Thursday, February 27th, and the final exam will be on Tuesday, May 6th from 8 to 11 a.m.

Lab Exercises/Homework Assignments

You will complete four lab assignments for this course. For each lab assignment, we will have two lab sessions which will take place during our normal class meeting time. These assignments will require you to conduct statistical analysis using a (free) software program called [R](#). Each lab assignment will begin on a Tuesday and be due on Thursday by 5 p.m., so you will have some time outside of class to complete assignments. Lab assignment due dates are: January 23rd, February 20th, April 3rd, and April 17th (these dates are also indicated on the schedule below).

Course Website and Email

Can be accessed through www.elc.uga.edu. You will need to check this site regularly for any syllabus updates, posted readings, and other materials I will post. Announcements may also be sent out via email.

Syllabus Change Policy

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary. I'll let you know if the schedule changes.

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.

Well-being, Mental Health, and Student Support

If you or someone you know needs assistance, you are encouraged to contact Student Care and Outreach in the Division of Student Affairs at 706-542-7774 or visit [their webpage](#). They will help you navigate any difficult circumstances you may be facing by connecting you with the appropriate resources or services. UGA has several resources to support your well-being and mental health. Find out more [here](#).

[Counseling and Psychiatric Services](#) (CAPS) is your go-to, on-campus resource for emotional, social and behavioral-health support. See also the [Therapy Assistance Online Support](#) site (TAOS), or call 706-542-2273 for 24/7 support . For crisis support see [this page](#). The University Health Center offers FREE workshops, classes, mentoring and health coaching led by licensed clinicians or health educators. See [here](#) for more.

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 (Thursday, March 21st) 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

Course introduction, concepts and measurement

Tuesday Jan 7: Syllabus review, class overview. No reading.

Thursday Jan 9: Munck, Gerardo L. and Jay Verkuilen. 2002. "Conceptualizing and Measuring Democracy: Evaluating Alternative Indices." *Comparative Political Studies* 35(1): 5-34.

Deductive and inductive inference, intro to measurement and descriptive statistics

Tuesday Jan 14: 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.

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.

Thursday Jan 16: Agresti and Finlay, pp. 12-17, chap 3.

Measurement and descriptive statistics, cont'd

Tuesday Jan 21: Agresti and Finlay, pp. 12-17, chap 3.

Lab session, Exercise 1 begins

Thursday Jan 23: No reading

Lab session, Exercise 1 due by 5 p.m.

Probability distributions and hypothesis tests

Tuesday Jan 28: Agresti and Finlay, chap 4.

Thursday Jan 30: Agresti and Finlay, chap 4.

Tuesday Feb 4: Agresti and Finlay, chap 5

Thursday Feb 6: No class

Tuesday Feb 11: Agresti and Finlay, chap 6.

Thursday Feb 13: Agresti and Finlay, chap 6.

Tuesday Feb 18: Agresti and Finlay, chap 6.

Lab session, Exercise 2 begins

Thursday Feb 20: No reading

Lab session, Exercise 2 due by 5 p.m.

Tuesday Feb 25: No reading, review for Exam 1

Thursday Feb 27: Exam 1

Tuesday Mar 4: Spring Break

Thursday Mar 6: Spring Break

Tests for statistical association - comparisons between groups

Tuesday Mar 11: Agresti and Finlay, chap 7

Thursday Mar 13: Agresti and Finlay, chap 7

Tests for statistical association - contingency tables

Tuesday Mar 18: Agresti and Finlay, chap 8

Thursday Mar 20: Agresti and Finlay, chap 8

Linear regression analysis

Tuesday Mar 25: Agresti and Finlay, chap 9

Thursday Mar 27: Agresti and Finlay, chap 9

Tuesday Apr 1: Agresti and Finlay, chap 9

Lab session, Exercise 3 begins

Thursday Apr 3: No reading

Lab session, Exercise 3 due by 5 p.m.

Tuesday Apr 8: Agresti and Finlay, chap 10 and 11

Thursday Apr 10: Agresti and Finlay, chap 14

Tuesday Apr 15: No reading

Lab session, Exercise 4 begins

Thursday Apr 17: No reading

Lab session, Exercise 4 due by 5 p.m.

Tuesday Apr 22: No reading, review for Final Exam

Thursday Apr 24: No reading, review for Final Exam

FINAL EXAM: Tuesday May 6th, 8 – 11 a.m.