FOCUS

This course will provide and teach the student basic social science quantitative methodological analysis. The course content will focus on basic descriptive statistics, probability statistics (very useful in playing the lottery or the betting line for this week’s big game), and inferential statistics (hypothesis testing involving comparisons of two or more different samples). We will end the semester with an overview of basic linear regression, and how to test hypotheses that are based on carefully constructed causal models. For example, how many beers it will take to gather up the courage to talk to that very interesting person across the bar at the Black Lab Pub.

The emphasis of this class is on the practical application of statistical techniques, rather than on mathematical proofs. It is assumed that individuals taking this course have had, at best, only an elementary mathematics course. Specifically, if you have the ability to add, subtract, multiply, divide, compute fractions, compute percentages, understand negative numbers, and basic principles of mathematical logic, you should survive this course.

TEXTS

Required:


Recommended:


There will be additional readings handed out during the course of the semester.
## REQUIREMENTS

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<tr>
<td>Problem Sets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Examination #1</td>
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<td>Examination #2</td>
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<td>Research Paper</td>
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<td>Final Examination</td>
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<td>Class Citizenship</td>
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Problems sets will normally be given out on Wednesday, and will be due on the following Wednesday in class. You are strongly encouraged to form study groups and work together on the problem sets. However, you must write up your own solutions to be turned in. I do not expect to receive identical problem sets from students. **Turning in a problem set that does not represent your own work will be treated as plagiarism.** Keep in mind that it would not be a wise idea to get a free ride off of your classmates without attempting the problems on your own. You will probably find yourself in trouble come exam time. This idea of this course is to do by learning.

The assignment for the research paper is different from the ones in other political or social science classes that you may have taken. You will review a journal article, describe its hypothesis, discuss the data used in the study, as well as the methodology employed, and assess the article’s conclusions.

## CLASS POLICIES

1) Students are responsible for all materials covered in the lectures and assigned readings. You must read the relevant chapters before the lecture pertaining to those readings.

2) Failure to attend class, tardiness and failure to participate in class discussion will negatively affect your grade in this class (**class citizenship portion of the course grade**).

3) Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty **will not be tolerated, and will be punished** to the fullest extent allowable by the Academic Committee at the University of St. Thomas (**See Below**).

4) Other than in exceptional cases of personal or family emergencies, no-make-ups will be given for students missing any of the regularly scheduled assignments.
during the semester. In addition, each calendar day late that an assignment is, will result in a reduction of a full letter grade.

5) A grade of “I” (Incomplete) will not be given in the course except in the most extraordinary of circumstances.

PLAGIARISM

The following are some dictionary definitions of plagiarism:

- “The action of copying someone else’s idea or work or pretending that you thought of it or created it” (Collins).
- “To take words, ideas, etc., from someone else’s work and use them in one’s own work without admitting one has done so” (Longman).
- “To steal or pass off as one’s own the ideas or words of another” (Webster).

Plagiarism also includes:

- “Double-dipping - This is submitting a paper or other assignment which had previously earned credit from another course.”
- “Text recycling - Reusing in a new assignment large portions of a previously submitted paper(s) or other written assignment (computer code, speech, etc.) without acknowledging their former use.”

Common student misconceptions on plagiarism:

- “Many students believe that as long as a citation is included, they can simply appropriate portions of text from another source and use that text as their own writing.”
- “Many are also confused as to what constitutes common knowledge believing that anything on the internet is common knowledge.”

Some General Tips to Students:

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2 Dr. Miguel Roig (University of St. Thomas Spring 2004 Faculty Study Day Speaker, January 12, 2004.
3 Dr. Miguel Roig (University of St. Thomas Spring 2004 Faculty Study Day Speaker, January 12, 2004.
4 Dr. Miguel Roig (University of St. Thomas Spring 2004 Faculty Study Day Speaker, January 12, 2004.
• Citation Guidelines
  - Common Knowledge: Did you look up the information? If so, then a citation is needed
  - An emphasis should be placed on proper paraphrasing (This will be discussed in greater detail at a later date).

• Student assignments should always be crafted and turned in with the understanding that the professor will be operating under the assumption that:
  - unless otherwise properly noted in the assignment, the assignment submitted is the student’s own.
  - the representation of their own or others’ work is accurate (e.g., data fabrication).
  - that the assignment turned in/presented is exclusive to that course.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS, LECTURES, AND EXAMS

January 12, Introduction to the Course

Topic One: The Political Use of Numbers: Lies and Statistics

Topic Two: Measurement

Topic Three: Measures of Central Tendency

Topic Four: Measures of Dispersion

Examination #1

Topic Five: Continuous Probability

Topic Six: Means Testing: Sampling a Population

Topic Seven: Hypothesis Testing: Examining Relationships

Topic Eight: Describing the Pattern: What Do You See?

Topic Nine: Chi-Square and Cramer’s V

Examination #2

Topic Ten: Measures of Association
Topic Eleven: Multivariate Relationships

Topic Twelve: Bivariate Regression

Topic Thirteen: Multiple Regression

Topic Fourteen: Understanding the Numbers: Knowing What Counts

**Important Dates:**

No Class, January 19, MLK Day

No Class, March 9-13, Spring Break

Wednesday, February 25. Research Prospectus is due.

No Class, Monday, March 23, and Wednesday, March 25, George W. Bush Presidential Conference

Wednesday, April 29. Research Paper is due.