

Research Project

20%

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| Survey lab work | 10% |
| Project Output | 10% |

As part of the course, we will design and conduct a statewide telephone survey of citizens during the semester. You must develop a theory and set of hypotheses that can be tested using survey data, help develop survey questions, and collect and analyze data to test your hypotheses. The format and content of this report will be discussed in more detail later in the semester.

All students must sign up to work in the survey lab for a minimum of two four hour shifts during the time we collect the survey data. In addition, students are expected to work on this project outside of class to complete the research objectives of the project. Your survey lab work grade will be based on the quality of your work on the survey project, particularly during the actual conduct of the survey.

Course Materials

Manheim, Jarol B. and Richard C. Rich *Empirical Political Analysis: Research Methods in Political Science*. New York: Longman Publishers.

Course Pack – Available at CopyTech

You are responsible for completing the assigned readings prior to class time or discussion sections. Assigned readings are outlined in the syllabus. However, dates given are approximate. The reading schedule will be updated at the beginning of each lecture so that you can plan your study time accordingly.

Class Policies

Attendance

You are expected to attend class and lab regularly. The exam material in this class will be drawn from a combination of the book, course pack, and lecture notes. If you do not come to class, you are not likely to score well on the exams.

Classroom courtesy

Please come to class on time and prepared to learn. Entering and leaving during lecture is disruptive to me and to your fellow students. I realize that sometimes this is unavoidable, but please be considerate of others. Continuous disruptive behavior will have consequences for your overall grade and possibly result in failing the class.

Cheating / Plagiarism

Don't do it. I take academic honesty *very seriously*. I expect all homework assignments, papers, and exam answers to be your own work. Academic dishonesty can result in you failing this course and facing University disciplinary action. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, submitting the same paper for multiple courses, and depriving another student of the ability to perform his or her work. Following are the definitions of cheating and plagiarism used by the University. If you have any questions, please see me.

Cheating: Including, but not limited to: (1) use of any unauthorized aid, sources, and assistance or assisting others in taking a course, quiz, test, or examination, writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out assignments; (2) The acquisition, without permission, of tests or

other academic material belonging to a member of the University community; (3) alteration of grade records; (4) bribing or attempting to bribe a member of the University community or any other individual to alter a grade.

Plagiarism: Including, but not limited to: (1) The use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment; (2) The unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

Important Dates:

October 13 -- Last day to drop with an automatic W. After this date, you must be passing the class to drop with a WP.

Week of OCT 14th -- SURVEY WEEK -- PLAN TO ATTEND YOUR ASSIGNED SURVEY SHIFTS; THERE WILL BE NO LAB DURING THE WEEK AND NO CLASSES ON OCT 13-16.

Nov. 27 - No class, Thanksgiving holiday

Dec. 5 -- Last day to drop with a WP or WF.

Dec. 9 - Last day of class; Final papers are due.

Dec. 17 7:30am –10:00 am. Final exam

Tentative Schedule

A tentative schedule of topics and reading assignments is listed below. **Note, however, the dates given are approximate. I will update and adjust this schedule as needed throughout the semester.** Updates will be posted at the beginning of each class. Please make note of any changes. You are responsible for reading the assigned materials *before* class.

| Week of: | Assigned Reading |
|------------------|---|
| 9/2 | Overview of Political Science Research M&R: Chapter 1 |
| 9/9 | Theory Building M&R: Chapter 2, 3 (skim), 17 (skim) Lab - Introduction to SPSS and Data Entry M&R Chapter 12 |
| 9/16 | Operationalization & Measurement M&R: Chapter 4 Lab - Describing Data M&R Chapter 15, 16 |
| 9/23 | Research Design and Bivariate analysis M & R Chapter 5, 15 Lab - Bivariate analysis M&R Chapter 15 |
| 9/30 | Survey Research, Sampling and Statistical Significance M&R Chapter 6, 7, 9 Lab - Statistical Significance M&R Chapter 15 |
| 10/7***** | Survey Research, Sampling and Statistical Significance - M&R Chapter 7, 8, 15 Lab - Statistical Significance M&R Chapter 15 |
| 10/14 | EXAM 1 – 10/9***** Survey Training Class 10/14 YOU MUST ATTEND THIS CLASS; Survey Begins 10/14 – NO CLASS 10/16; NO LABS THIS WEEK |

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| 10/21 | Other Data Sources and Introduction to Bivariate Regression M&R sections of chapters 9, 10, 15 |
| | Lab - Bivariate Regression M&R Chapter 15 |
| 10/28 | Bivariate Regression M&R Chapter 15 |
| | Lab - Bivariate Regression, continued |
| 11/4 | Quasi-Experiments and the Logic of Control Variables M&R Chapter 16 |
| | Lab - Multivariate Cross-tabs and Regression M&R Chapter 16 |
| 11/11 | Quasi-Experiments and the Logic of Control Variables, continued M&R Chapter 16 |
| | Lab - Multivariate Cross-tabs and Regression M&R Chapter 16 |
| 11/18**** | REVIEW EXAM 2, NOVEMBER 20 ***** |
| 12/2 | Multivariate Regression M&R Chapter 16 |
| | Report writing M&R Chapter 21 |
| 12/9 | Report writing and wrap up M&R Chapter 21 |
| DEC 17TH | Final Exam – 7:30 am – 10 am |