**PSCI 2075: Quantitative Research Methods**

Instructor: Courtney Johnson

Office Hours via Google Hangouts: Thursdays from 10am-noon, or by appointment

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Class times: No required class times

Meeting location: Virtual

Office hours: Thursdays from 10-noon or by appointment

**Course Description:**

Reminder: this course is truncated for time, but not for content. This means we will be moving very quickly through this course. Therefore, it is imperative that you keep up. This can be made more difficult in an asynchronous online course. To incentivize staying caught up, there are 2 quick quizzes, 2 discussion posts, and 1 assignment per week. These also allow you to get credit on things other than exams, and allows for some group work to spread out the load.

Contact time with me: I will hold virtual office hours on Thursdays from 10-noon. To attend, you will be able to sign up for a 15 minute slot via google hangouts. *Please utilize my office hours*- I am here to help you. I will also be available via appointment for a virtual meeting- please do not hesitate to reach out when you need help. I will try to make appointments when it works for you, if at all possible.

**Course Materials:**

Required texts (can be purchased online, but be sure to get the 5th edition):

Pollock, Philip. 2016.The Essentials of Political Analysis, 5th edition. Sage. ISBN 978-1-5063-0583-7(EPA)

Pollock, Philip and Barry C. Edwards. 2018.An R Companion to Political Analysis, 2nd edition.Sage. ISBN: 978-1-5063-6884-9 (RC)

Required software:

R Statistical Programming Software

R Studio

Microsoft office

The most recent upgrade to your computer *must* be downloaded prior to the start of class

Resources:

I will provide lectures for concepts and screencasts for coding help. I will additionally provide documents which help with technical issues, such as downloading R and R Studio prior to the start of class.

**Course Requirements:**

The system used to assign final course grades will be:

•A : 94-100

•A-: 90-93

•B+: 87-89

•B : 84-86

•B-: 80-83

•C+: 77-79

•C : 74-76

•C-: 70-73

•D : 60-69

•F : 59 and below

*Final grades will be calculated based upon the following, and you must complete all portions of the course to receive a passing grade:*

Assignments:

4 group assignments, each worth 5% of your grade for a total of 20%

Quizzes:

6 quizzes, worth (in total) 20% of your grade

Exams:

Midterm exam worth 20% of your grade

Final exam worth 25% of your grade

Participation:

1 discussion post per week with 2 responses (4 total), worth a total of 15% of your grade

Assignments: You will have 4 individual assignments (due the Friday of each week (except the final assignment) at 11:59 MST). The goal of these assignments is to make sure that you have experience with coding and that you are keeping up on the coding for the course. You may work with others on these assignments, but the finished product must be in your own words. Failure to complete these assignments will not only take away credit here, but will make the exams very difficult. My office hours are purposefully the day before the assignments are due, and we will have live lab time on Thursday afternoons specifically for coding help.

Quizzes: These quizzes will be open note, but quick (so please study). These are designed to keep you on track in the course. Each will be open for 1 day and you will have 10 minutes to complete them. The quizzes will be administered via Canvas, and will be multiple choice. These will be due on Fridays at 5pm MST but will be open all week if you would like to work ahead.

Exams: There will be 2 exams in this course- a midterm and a final exam. Both will be open book and administered via Canvas. These exams will be 75% multiple choice, conceptual questions, and 25% coding and interpretation. No code will be on any exam that has not been covered in screencasts and already done on previous assignments. These exams are to be completed individually, and any violation of this policy will be treated as outlined in the academic dishonesty section of this document. Each exam will be open for 1 hour, and you will have the entire day of the exam to complete it, due by 11:59 MST.

Participation: This section is meant to give you credit for effort. Here, you’ll need to ask a question of your colleagues as your original post, and then you’ll need to help 2 of your classmates find answers to their questions. You will not be able to see other’s questions until you have posted your own, and these will be graded almost entirely on effort (to help boost grades for those who are putting effort into the course.) A good post will pose an original, thoughtful question, and good answers will involve finding correct information to give your classmate. Discussion oriented questions are alright too, ie: “how can polls work if they don’t ask everyone in the population a question?” or “Why did pollsters predict Clinton winning in 2016?” These questions are due on Tuesdays of each week at noon MST, and the responses are due at 5pm MST on Wednesdays of each week.

**Course Policies:**

Class behavior: This course is conducted virtually, so most of the work will be done individually. However, when interacting with myself and colleagues, you must adhere to the university guidelines on behavior. Disrespect will not be tolerated.

Email policy: I will respond to emails within 1 business day of receipt. Please do not email for same-day help on assignments, as it is not feasible for me to get back to you in that short of a time frame. Additionally, some questions are very difficult to answer via email, and you may be asked to do a Zoom meeting with screenshare on for me to better help with your questions.

Grading policies: I will return graded material as promptly as possible. While I try to be very careful in grading, I am aware that we sometimes make mistakes. If you receive an exercise or exam back and believe that a mistake has been made, I will be happy to check—and perhaps re-grade—your assignment. Please hold onto your exam (assignment) for at least 24 hours after it has been returned before you ask for a re-grade. Any re-grade request must be made in writing (this consists of a single paragraph explaining why the original grade is inappropriate, emails are accepted), and must be submitted within one week from the time the assignment was returned to you (after one week has passed, I will not re-grade any exams or papers). Under most circumstances, I will re-grade the entire exercise or exam — note that this means that your grade may go up, go down, or remain the same.

Late policy: I do not accept late assignments. With the nature of an online, self-guided course, you are responsible to keep up with assignments. You have multiple days for every graded assignment, so I strongly suggest working ahead to avoid last minute issues. If you anticipate an issue with a due-date or a test date, please reach out to me *in advance* and I will work to accommodate you.

Special accommodations and disability: I am more than happy to make special arrangements for students with documented disabilities that have been documented through Disability Services (colorado.edu/disability services). If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services in a timely manner (for exam accommodations provide your letter at least one week prior to the exam) so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or by e-mail at dsinfo@colorado.edu for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see Temporary Injuries guidelines under the Quick Links/Students Tab at the Disability Services website and discuss your needs with me. Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. Please see full details at: http://www.colorado.edu/policies/observance-religious-holidays-and-absences-classes-andor-exams. Please notify me about potential conflicts at least 2weeks in advance of exams/due-dates.

Discrimination and Harassment: The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment (http://www.colorado.edu/policies/discrimination-and-harassment-policy-and-procedures), the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment, and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships applies to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://hr.colorado.edu/dh/Pages/default.aspx>.

Academic Honesty: All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Honor Code. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, threatening behavior, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-735-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions from the Honor Code. Additional information regarding the Honor Code policy can be found online and at the Honor Code Office. If you violate the honor code, you will receive a “zero” on the assignment/portion of the course grade in question.

Professional Courtesy and Learning Environment: Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student’s legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. For more information, see the policies on classroom behavior and the student code.

**Course Schedule (subject to change):**

\*note: all content for each week, including assignments and quizzes, will be posted on the Monday morning of that week\*

Week 1: Welcome to the Jungle, Descriptive Statistics, and Hypothesis Testing

7/7/20: Watch introduction lecture and review syllabus, watch and follow installing R and R Studio screencast, optional: take syllabus quiz for extra credit

7/8/20: Reach Ch 1 and 2, watch Ch 1 and 2 lecture and watch/follow Ch 1 and 2 screencast, week 1 discussion question due

7/9/20: Read Ch 3, watch Ch 3 lecture and watch/follow Ch 3 screencast, week 1 discussion answers due

7/10/20: First assignment due at 11:59pm, Ch 1-3 quiz due at 5pm

Week 2: Research Design and Statistical Significance

7/13/20: Read Ch 4, watch Ch 4 lecture, watch/follow Ch 4 screencast

7/14/20: Read Ch 5, watch Ch 5 lecture, watch/follow Ch 5 screencast, week 2 discussion question due

7/15/20: Read Ch 6, watch Ch 6 lecture, watch/follow Ch 6 screencast, week 2 responses due

7/16/20: Catch up day! Catch up with anything you’ve gotten behind on, study for midterm

7/17/20: Assignment 2 due at 11:59pm, Ch 4-6 quiz due at 5pm

Week 3: Midterm, Correlation, and Regression

7/20/20: Midterm, due at 11:59pm

7/21/20: Week 3 discussion question due (otherwise, rest this day)

7/22/20: Read Ch 7, watch Ch 7 lecture, watch/follow Ch 7 screencast, discussion responses due

7/23/20: Read Ch 8 (first half), watch Ch 8 Part 1 lecture, watch/follow Ch 8 Part 1 screencast

7/24/20: Assignment 3 due at 11:59pm, Ch 7-8 (first half) quiz due at 5pm 9

Week 4: Interactions and Visualizations

7/27/20: Read Ch 8 (second half), watch Ch 8 Part 2 lecture, watch/follow Ch 8 Part 2 screencast

7/28/20: Catch up with previous readings, post week 4 discussion question

7/29/20: Read Ch 9, watch Ch 9 lecture, watch/follow Ch 9 screencast, discussion responses due

7/30/20: Work day – make sure you understand everything so far

7/31/20: Assignment 4 due at 11:59pm, Ch 8-9 quiz due at 5pm

Week 5: Logistic Regression and Final Exam

8/3/20: Read Ch 10, watch Ch 10 lecture, watch/follow Ch 10 screencast

8/4/20: Workshop from 1-3pm MST, open on Zoom for any/all questions

8/5/20: Jeopardy game, study day

8/6/20-8/7/20: Final exam will be open on these two days, due at 11:59pm MST on 8/7/20