

**University of Toronto  
Department of Political Science**

**POL242Y (Summer-2010)  
Introduction to Research Methods**

Classes: Tuesday and Thursday 6pm to 8pm, room FE36.

Tutorial times to be announced shortly.

Course website: [www.chass.utoronto.ca/pol242](http://www.chass.utoronto.ca/pol242) & Blackboard

**INSTRUCTORS:**

Renan Levine

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Office hours: Tuesday 5pm-6pm, Sid Smith Room 3009 or Room FE36

TAs: Jennifer Hove. [j.hove@utoronto.ca](mailto:j.hove@utoronto.ca) & TBA

This course introduces fundamentals of research design and data analysis. Contrary to most classes in social sciences, students in this course are expected to produce their *own* empirical research results and analyse them. Students will complete multiple computer-based exercises using the statistical techniques learned during the course. Students will have a choice of writing a final paper or a final term test. The final paper will require students to produce an original piece of research using quantitative methods. For this purpose, students devise a proper design for their study, including a literature review, a research question and hypotheses and complete the statistical tests necessary to test their ideas.

**Evaluation:**

Four (4) statistical worksheets –	<b>30%</b>
Four (4) in-class quizzes –	<b>10%</b>
One statistical write-up –	<b>13%</b>
One presentation –	<b>12%</b>
Term test or final paper –	<b>25%</b>
<u>Participation &amp; Attendance –</u>	<b><u>10%</u></b>
	Total = 100%

**Assignments**

Details of the assignments can be found on the course website or Blackboard.

Presentations will be held in class on 24 & 29 June. They will provide a short summary of your research in just 3-4 minutes. These classes may be extended into the tutorial time after class, depending on the size of the class.

## **Grading Policy**

Assignments should be turned in at the start of the class on their due date. Late assignments should be turned in to the Department of Political Science during business hours. All matters of grading, exemptions, and discipline procedures will be handled in accordance with the Faculty of Arts and Science Academic Handbook. All appeals and complaints will be handled in a manner consistent with the regulations described in the handbook. See <http://www.artsandscience.utoronto.ca/studentaffairs/handbook.shtml> for the complete handbook.

Extensions for non-health reasons may only be granted prior to the day of the deadline, exam or quiz by an instructor. Late assignments will be penalized 3% per day for the first ten days of lateness. Each day ends at 5 pm. After ten days of lateness, the teaching assistants and the instructor will refuse to accept the work for grading.

Any student who believes that any work has been unfairly graded may ask the instructor to re-evaluate his or her work. Grading appeals should be submitted with a cover letter explaining the basis of the appeal to the instructor or the teaching assistant. No oral or emailed appeals will be considered. Such re-marking may involve the entire piece of work, and may raise or lower the mark.

## **Plagiarism – turnitin.com**

Plagiarism is a serious academic offense with a severe penalty. It is essential that you understand what plagiarism is and that you do not commit it. Please see <http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/plagsep.html> for more information and tips on how to avoid plagiarism. Students agree that by taking this course all required papers and write-ups must be submitted for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

## **Collaborative Work**

During class, especially during laboratory activities, you will be encouraged to collaborate and work with your classmates. All work turned in for a grade, though, must be the product of your individual efforts unless you have prior permission from an instructor to work collaboratively.

## **Tutorials**

All tutorials are held in the classroom FE 36. Tutorials are an essential part of POL242. Tutorials provide an opportunity to complete work for class with the assistance of the teaching assistants. While attending tutorials is not mandatory, it is very strongly suggested. Because of the highly technical nature of the course, students typically do perform much better if they attend tutorials.

## **Required Readings:**

Pollock, Phillip. "The Essentials of Political Analysis." CQ Press, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition.

Various data exercises found on <http://chass.utoronto.ca/pol242>

Other required readings marked ONLINE are available electronically through the University of Toronto Library catalogue. Those not ONLINE will be made available through Blackboard.

### **Recommended Readings:**

Some readings or alternative readings listed below in the syllabus are drawn from:

Paul M. Kellstedt & Guy Whitten, *The Fundamentals of Political Science Research*, Cambridge University Press, 2009. ISBN: 978-0-521-69788-0;

Jarol B. Manheim, Richard Rich, Lars Willnat and Craig Leonard Brians, *Empirical Political Analysis: Research Methods in Political Science*, 8<sup>th</sup> edition (Pearson Longman, 2010).

Michael Haan, *An Introduction to Statistics for Canadian Social Scientists*, (Oxford, 2009).

These books have different strengths and have been required in the past for this course. You may choose to use any of these books for this course instead of the Pollock text.

Other readings are available on-line through archives like JStor.

Students are also advised to consult the following on-line textbooks which have also been used in previous years for the course.

Wolfgang Ludwig-Mayerhofer, *Internet Guide to SPSS for Windows*  
<http://www.lrz-muenchen.de/~wlm/wlmspss.htm>

John L. Korey, *Politically-Oriented Web-Enhanced Research Methods for Undergraduates — Topics and Tools* as adapted from:  
<http://www.csupomona.edu/%7Ejlkorey/POWERMUTT/index.html>

Lee G. Burchinal, *Methods for Social Researchers in Developing Countries*  
<http://srmdc.net/>

More recommended readings on statistics, graphics, technical writing and presentations can be found at: [http://www.chass.utoronto.ca/pol242/rec\\_readings.htm](http://www.chass.utoronto.ca/pol242/rec_readings.htm)

### **Class Schedule:**

*Tuesday May 11* – Introduction: What is Social (Scientific) Research?  
Readings: Pollock, Ch. 1, Haan (1 & 2); Manheim et al (1 & 2)

*Thursday, May 13* – Univariate Comparisons and Webstats

Readings: Pollock, Ch. 2, Haan (3 & 6); Manheim et al. (16)

**Lab exercise 1a**

*Tuesday, May 18 – Thinking in the language of Hypotheses and Variables*

Readings: Pollock, Ch. 3, Haan (Review pp.10-11; 4 & 5); Manheim et al. (5)

**Lab Exercise 2a & 2b**

*Thursday May 20 – Scientific Method and Probability*

Pollock, Ch. 4

**Univariate Worksheet due (7.5%)**

*Tuesday May 25 – Sampling and Significance*

Readings: Pollock, Ch. 6, Haan (7 & 9); Manheim (7)

*Thursday May 27 – T tests & ANOVA*

Readings: Pollock, Ch. 7, Haan (10)

**Lab exercises 5a & 5b**

*Tuesday June 1 – Crosstabs I*

Readings: Pollock, Ch. 5, Haan (12 & 13)

**Lab exercise 3a & 3b (& 5c)**

*Thursday June 3 – Crosstabs & Recoding*

**Quiz # 1: Crosstabs and variable types**

**Lab exercises from Tuesday, Lab 3c**

**Significance Worksheet due (7.5%)**

*Tuesday June 8 – Reliability Analysis and Indices*

Readings: Manheim et al. (202-5); Babbie & Benaquisto (6);

Inglehart, R. and P. R. Abramson (1999) “Measuring Postmaterialism” *American Political Science Review*. 93 (3): 665-677. ONLINE.

**Lab exercise 4a & 4b**

*Thursday June 10 – Correlation; Making nice tables and graphs*

Readings: Pollock, pp. 171-174, Haan (14); [www2.chass.ncsu.edu/garson/pa765/correl.htm](http://www2.chass.ncsu.edu/garson/pa765/correl.htm).

**Lab exercise 6**

**Crosstab Worksheet due (7.5%)**

*Tuesday June 15 – Causality, Control and Elaboration*

Readings: Pollock, Ch. 5, “The Elaboration Model” in Babbie, E. 2007. *The Practice of Social Research, 11<sup>th</sup> Ed.*

**Lab exercise 7**

**Quiz # 2: Bivariate Analysis (2.5%)**

*Thursday June 17 – Presentation Preparation*

Lab exercise 7 if not completed on Tuesday, June 15

TBA

*Tuesday June 22 – No Class*

*Thursday June 24 – No class*

*Tuesday June 29 –NO CLASS*

*Thursday July 1 – NO CLASS, Happy Canada Day*

*Tuesday July 6 – Presentations*

*Thursday July 8 – Presentations*

*Tuesday July 13 – – Introduction to Regression*

Readings: Pollock, Ch. 8, Haan (16)

**Lab exercise 8, 9a**

*Thursday July 15 – Multiple Regression & Dummies*

Readings: Pollock, pp.184-187, Haan (p.134), Haan (18)

**Lab exercise 9a**

*Tuesday July 20 – Dummy Variables & special regression in-class tutorial session*

**Quiz #3: Multiple Regression (2.5%)**

**Lab exercise 9b (1st part)**

*Thursday July 22 – Logistic Regression*

Readings: Pollock, Ch. 9; Haan (17)

**Lab exercise 10**

**Quiz #4: Logistic Regression (at end of class, 2.5%)**

**Regression Worksheet Due**

*Tuesday July 27 – Interactions*

Pollock, pp. 187-189; TBA

**Lab exercise 9b (continued)**

*Thursday July 29 – Regression Diagnostics*

**Regression Write-up (12%)**

*Tuesday August 3 – Literature Review, Referencing and Hypotheses [Revisited]*

TBA

*Thursday August 5 – Varieties of Qualitative Research & Causality Claims*

Readings: B. Rothstein, 2007. “How to get at Causality in the Social Sciences: Multiple Regression versus Case Studies,” *Comparative Social Research*, 24: 351-60. ONLINE.

TBA

TBA

*Tuesday, August 10 – TBA*

*Thursday, August 12 – Final Report/ Term Test*