POL2104H1S Political Analysis in Canadian and Comparative Politics  
Mondays 10-12AM, (Online).

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1 Course Description
This course examines the scientific method and its contribution to Canadian and Comparative politics by focusing on key applications, to parallel substantive themes in both fields, from statistics, experimentation, formal modelling, and computing. Topic coverage includes the political behaviour of politicians and citizens, the effects of electoral and other political institutions on politics and decision-making, the assessment of public policies and institutional reforms, and the analyses of political communication, including on social media. Students will have wide latitude to focus their work on relevant data types and substantive themes from their programme of study. Assignments in the course will involve replicating or extending existing work and/or applying formal theories to some area of Canadian or Comparative politics. The theme of the course is the emergence of Political Analysis as a multilayered interconnected field with substantive applications to the past and for the future of Canadian and comparative political science.

2 Assessment

2.1 Weight and Description

2.1.1 Participation - 10%
Thoughtful and informed participation in seminar discussions. Asking questions when you have them.

2.1.2 Presentations - 30%
We will each choose one reading per week and prepare a succinct 5-10 min formal presentation of the goals, methods, data, substantive contributions, and, if applicable, any limitations arising from the internal logic of the work. For the duration of the presentation, the presenter will be expected to present and defend the work as if it their own. The others, who are expected to be familiar with the work, will ask questions and pose any appropriate challenges. Assessment will be based on the five best presentations from each student.

2.1.3 Proposal - 15%
A ≈ 8-page research proposal outlining and justifying a feasible application of any method(s) in political analysis to the study of Canadian and/or Comparative politics. The replication or extension of existing work is encouraged but not required.

2.1.4 Research Paper - 30%
A research paper of absolutely no more than 20 pages, not including graphs, tables, and appendices. Within this constraint, the appropriate length will depend on the type of work. All papers will be held to the same standard of assessment. Assessment will focus on the clarity of the research question and the justification, design, and implementation of the research, as well as the quality of the paper itself.
(clarity and efficiency of writing, tables, graphs, and exposition of models, where appropriate). The justification of hypotheses and the appropriateness and execution of the analysis are key elements of assessment, but the results are just the results. The assessment will not consider whether the outcome of a careful and appropriate analysis turns out to support (or not) some well-justified hypothesis.

2.1.5 **Presentation - 15%**

A formal presentation of the research paper in absolutely no more than 12 minutes. Presentations should be clear and well-rehearsed. Remember, the goal of a presentation is to construct in the minds of listeners the importance, logic, and key results of your research. Summarizing an entire research endeavor will not achieve this objective.

2.2 **Assignment Schedule**

- Research Proposal (March 1)
- Research Presentation (April 5)
- Final Paper (April 12)

2.2.1 **Late Work**

Try to submit your work by the assigned deadlines. If your work will be late, let me know in advance of the original deadline when I can expect to receive it.

2.3 **January 11: Foundations**

2.3.1 **Readings**

- POL2104 Course Syllabus.

2.4 **January 18: National Election Studies**

2.4.1 **Readings**

  *Public Opinion Quarterly* 74(5): 849-879.


2.5 January 25: Political Culture and Ideology

2.5.1 Readings


2.6 February 1: Politics and Geography

2.6.1 Readings


2.7 February 8: Formal Theory

2.7.1 Readings


2.8 February 22: Causal Inference


2.9 March 1: Experiments

2.9.1 Readings


2.10 March 8: Quasi-Experimental Approaches


2.11 March 15: Computing and Simulation

2.11.1 Readings


• Schelling, Thomas C. 1978. Micromotives and Macrobehavior W.W.Norton & Company. (Chapter 1)


2.12 March 22: Networks Analysis

2.12.1 Readings


2.13 March 29: Text as Data

2.13.1 Readings


2.14 April 5: Audiovisual Data

2.14.1 Readings


• Hwang, June, Kosuke Imai, and Alex Tarr. 2020. “Automated Coding of Political Campaign Advertisement Videos: An Empirical Validation Study.”