I. CLASS MEETINGS (LH 110)
M, W, F: 10:00-10:50 a.m. (Section I)
M, W, F: 11:00-11:50 a.m. (Section II)

II. OFFICE HOURS
Mon & Wed, 2-4 p.m. or By Appointment (seoj@uncw.edu)

III. COURSE DESCRIPTION
Can we study politics scientifically? What do we mean by scientific inquiry of political behavior and institution? How can we as students of politics distinguish ourselves from those of journalism or history? Do you want yourself to be called a political scientist? What tools and skill-sets are available out there for a better understanding of policymaking processes? Which approach is more appropriate, qualitative or quantitative? Ultimately, can we as political scientists predict, for example, who is going to be the next president of the United States? If yes, how so? If not, why not?

This course will introduce you to the basic principles of research design in political science and to research tools and skills for analyzing politics rigorously. This is not a statistics class; it is a class about how political scientists conduct their research. Thus, we will explore a wide range of political science methods, including research design, qualitative approach, and basic statistical analysis. When the semester is over, I expect you to be equipped with various research approaches, both qualitative and quantitative. Using the tools of scientific inquiry, you can improve your ability to pose and answer research questions on your own. At the end of the day, I want you to tell what is “not even wrong” in study of politics.

IV. COURSE READING

Required Reading (Textbook)
Suggested Reading

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. First Midterm (Feb 9th) = 25%
2. Second Midterm (Mar 23rd) = 25%
3. Final Exam (May 4th Sec I, April 29th Sec II) = 30%
4. Library Research Assignment = 10%
5. Attendance = 10%

- Three In-Class Exams
  Make up exams will only be given for excused absences and emergencies evidenced by relevant documents.
  Exam format will be a combination of multiple-choice questions, short identification, and calculation.

- Library Research Assignment
  A short assignment will be given, following the special lecture on the Randall Library research information.

- Attendance
  I will do attendance check and apply it into your final grade. If necessary, all documentation should be submitted to me in a timely manner.

For the whole course, letter grades will be assigned according to the following point totals:

A=92.5 or more  A-=89.5-92.49  B+=87.5-89.49  B=82.5-87.49  B-=79.5-82.49  C+=77.5-79.49  C=69.5-77.49  D=59.5-69.49  F= less than 59.5

* According to *University of North Carolina Bulletin* and the *Student Handbook*, you are advised that: (1) Do not commit plagiarism. (2) Do not receive unauthorized assistance during the exams. (3) Violations of these rules in any assignment may be subject to a minimum penalty of failing grade for the assignment and could result in a grade of “F” for the course.
VI. CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1 (1.7-1.9)  Scientific Inquiry
- Course Introduction and Research Experiences/Expectations
- “How Do We Know What Is True?”
- *JRD Chapter 1*

Week 2 (1.12-1.16)  Studying Politics Scientifically
- Deductive vs. Inductive Approach
- Normative vs. Empirical Question
- Explanation, Prediction, and Falsification
- Qualitative or Quantitative Approach?
- *JRD Chapter 2*

Jan 19 (M)  MLK Holiday!

Week 3 (1.21-1.23)  Hypotheses, Concepts, and Variables
- Dependent variables vs. Independent variables
- Characteristics of “Good” Hypotheses
- *JRD Chapter 3*

Week 4 (1.26-1.30)  Measurement and Research Design
- Operational Definition of Concepts and Variables
- Level of Measurement
- Steps in Research Process
- *JRD Chapter 4 and 5*

Week 5 (2.2.-2.6)  Research Design
- Experimentation and Spurious Correlations
- Time-series analysis, Cross-sectional analysis, Panel study
- *JRD Chapter 5*

Feb 9 (M)  First Midterm Exam (Chapters 1 through 5)
Week 6 (2.11-2.13) Literature Review and Document Analysis

- Conducting and Writing a Literature Review
- Types of Written Records and Content Analysis
  - JRD Chapter 6 & 9

Week 7 (2.16-2.18) The Randall Library Research: Information Session

- Special Lectures by Ms. Sue Cody
- Library Research Assignment Due in Class of Feb 18 (W)

Week 8 (2.20 & 2.23-2.27) Sampling

- Statistical Inference: Population parameter vs. Sample statistic
- Probability Sample vs. Non-probability Sample
- Sampling Distribution
  - JRD Chapter 7

Week 9 (3.2-3.6) Survey Research and Interviewing/ Statistics: First Steps (I)

- Survey and Interview
- Central Tendency and Dispersion
- Statistical Inference and Hypothesis Testing
  - JRD Chapter 10 and 11

Week 10 (3.9-3.13) Spring Break!

Week 11 (3.16-3.20) Statistics: First Steps (II)

- Confidence Intervals
- Standard Normal Distribution and Z-Score
  - JRD Chapter 11

Mar 23 (M) Second Midterm Exam (Chapters 6, 7 and 9, 10, 11)
Week 12 (3.25-3.27) Investigating Relations between Two Variables (I)

- Cross-tabulation Analysis and Statistical Independence
- *JRD Chapter 12*

Week 13 (3.30-4.1) Investigating Relations between Two Variables (II)

- Statistical Significance and Chi-square Test
- *JRD Chapter 12*

Apr 3 (F) No Class (Instructor for MPSA Conference in Chicago)

Week 14 (4.6-4.8) Investigating Relations between Two Variables (III)

- Chi-square Test
- *JRD Chapter 12*

Apr 10 (F) No Class (Good Friday Holiday!)

Week 15 (4.13-4.17) Investigating Relations between Two Variables (IV)

- Population-mean Test
- *JRD Chapter 12*

Week 16 (4.20-4.24) Investigating Relations between Two Variables (V)

- Difference-of-means Test (t-test)
- *JRD Chapter 12*

Apr 27 (M) Last Class Day and Final Exam Review Session

April 29 (W) 11 am Section: Final Exam (11:30 am – 2:30 pm) (Chapter 12)

May 4 (M) 10 am Section: Final Exam (8-11 am) (Chapter 12)