



Department of Political Science
Faculty of Arts

POLI 399-L01
Quantitative Research Methods
Winter 2020

Instructor: Dr. Kim-Lee Tuxhorn

Instructor's Personal Zoom Meeting Room ID: 680-987-0296

Instructor's Office: Zoom (permanent url link to join lecture:

<https://ucalgary.zoom.us/j/6809870296>

Instructor's Office Hours via Zoom: MWF 10:00-10:50 or by appointment

Instructor's Email: kimlee.tuxhorn@ucalgary.ca. Email is the best way to contact me. I usually respond on the same day if you email me on business days before 5pm.

Course Day/Time: MWF 9:00 - 9:50 via Zoom (permanent url link to join lecture:

<https://ucalgary.zoom.us/j/6809870296>)

Lecture Location: Zoom Meeting

Course Anti-Requisites: ENG 319, PSYC 301, 312, SOC 315, STAT 205, 213, 217 & 327

Course website with additional materials: This syllabus, course slides, lecture recordings, and all supplemental reading material can be found on the course's D2L page <https://d2l.ucalgary.ca/>.

Tutorials: Live Labs: Every Tuesday 2pm-3pm; Drop-in Lab Sessions: Every Wednesday 12pm-1pm, Every Thursday 12pm-1pm

Tutorial Location: Zoom Meeting Room ID for live lab and drop-in sessions:

<https://ucalgary.zoom.us/j/7786422920>

Tutorial Assistants, TA Office Hours, and Zoom Meeting IDs:

John Santos (john.santos1@ucalgary.ca) will run all labs (live lab and drop-in sessions),
<https://ucalgary.zoom.us/j/7786422920>

Bryanne de Castro Rocha (bryanne.decastroroch@ucalgary.ca), Thursdays 11 to 1,
Zoom Meeting Room ID: <https://ucalgary.zoom.us/j/364659586>

Taruneek Kapoor (tkkapoor@ucalgary.ca), Thursdays 1 to 3,
Zoom Meeting Room ID: <https://ucalgary.zoom.us/j/5887370121>

Course description

This course is designed to introduce students to the skills for interpreting, conducting, presenting, and analyzing political science statistical research. The course will be taught using a variety of pedagogical tools including lecture, student-paired exercises, and in-class problem solving. During class sessions students should be prepared to interact with their fellow peers and the instructor on a regular basis.

Over the course of the term, you will learn how to think like social scientists while developing various skills required by the discipline: how to choose which method to employ, how to undertake original research (complete with data collection and analysis), and how to present your findings in a professional manner. The goal at the end of this class is to help you understand and conduct quantitative political research that will be useful in both academic and professional settings.

Course Objectives & Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Describe and assess the logic of political science research;
- Understand the basic concepts and research design involved in social science research;
- Use statistical software for data analysis;
- Learn how to analyze data, communicate research findings and be an intelligent consumer of social science research.

Required Textbooks

You are required to attend and be an active participant in class. The reading will be essential to doing well in this course. Required Texts: POLI 399 Stats Bundle by Roberts:

1. **Textbook:** Lance W. Roberts; Jason Edgerton; Tracey Peter; Lori Wilkinson, Understanding Social Statistics (Oxford University Press, 2015).
2. **Lab Manual:** Lance W. Roberts, Karen Kampen, Tracey Peter, The Statistics Coach: Learning Through Practice (Oxford University Press, 2010).

Course Component Weights and Due Dates

<i>Component</i>	<i>Weighting</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Top Hat - Attendance and Participation	10%	1/13/20 - 3/11/2020
Assignments	30%	See class schedule for due dates
Mid-Term	25%	3/2/20
Final Exam	35%	4/21/20 (9:00am - 4:00pm)
Total	100%	

Tutorials

Teaching Assistants (TAs) play an important role in assisting students to master the material in the course. John will be hosting one live lab session and two drop-in sessions every week. Similar to in-person lab tutorials, the live labs will reinforce content from lecture and help students apply concepts using actual data. The live labs will be recorded so that students can review them at a later date. The drop-in sessions provide students with an additional opportunity to ask John questions related to data and the labs. Importantly, the drop-in sessions are intended to supplement the live labs, not substitute them. If you missed the live lab, please go and watch the recording of the live labs first. Then if you have lingering questions, please stop in for a drop-in session. Students are required to download SPSS from the University's IT website to work on the assignments and problems at home; you can access the site here <http://www.ucalgary.ca/it/services/software> and we will review this in lectures and tutorials.

Bryanne de Castro Rocha, Taruneek Kapoor, Dr. Tuxhorn are responsible for grading the assignments. Bryanne de Castro Rocha and Taruneek Kapoor will also have set office hours each week to meet and assist students.

Students are encouraged to meet with TAs during office hours to address questions they might have with the course material, software and/or assignments.

NOTE: TAs have only a limited number of hours per week that they are allowed to devote to this course; reasonable expectations regarding responses to e-mail correspondence, especially on evenings and weekends, and for one-on-one meetings are requested.

Class Schedule

Table 1: Revised Class Schedule March 19 to April 15

Date	Lecture Topic	Lecture Readings	Assignment Due
3/20/20	Multivariate Analysis - Day 3	Textbook Ch.16	Assignment 7
3/23/20	Multiple Regression - Day 1	Textbook Ch.17	
3/25/20	Multiple Regression - Day 2	Textbook Ch.17	
3/27/20	Multiple Regression - Day 3	Textbook Ch.17	Assignment 8
3/30/20	Sampling and inference Day 1	Textbook Ch.18	
4/1/20	Sampling and inference Day 2	Textbook Ch.18	
4/3/20	Sampling distribution	Textbook Ch.18	Assignment 9
4/6/20	Confidence Levels and Intervals - Day 1	Textbook Ch.19	
4/8/20	Confidence Levels and Intervals - Day 2	Textbook Ch.19	
4/10/20	Confidence Levels and Intervals - Day 3	Textbook Ch.19	
4/13/20	Review session (optional)	Textbook Ch.20	Assignment 10

Assignments (30%) Over the semester there will be 10 short assignments. The seven (7) best grades out of the 10 assignments will be counted toward your final grade. Detailed instructions for each assignment will be announced in class and posted on D2L along with accompanying data files. The course tutorials are structured to assist students in successfully completing the assignments. The due dates for each assignment are noted in the Class Schedule.¹ All assignments must be submitted on D2L by 12pm on the day they are due. **Late assignments will NOT be accepted.** **If you miss an assignment or fail to submit one on time, please consider it one of your three “freebies” that do not count against your grade.** You may discuss assignments with your classmates, but all submitted work must be your own.

Top Hat - Attendance and Participation (10%) I expect class-preparation, which means taking notes on/thinking about the readings ahead of time. Discussion of concepts and applications will be an important part of this course, and thus participation counts for a sizable portion of your final grade. To aid discussion in the class, we will be using *Tophat*. I will also use *Tophat* to track participation and attendance. All students are required to download *Tophat* by the end of the first week. For more information on downloading and using *Tophat* please visit the website at <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/category/top-hat/>. **Students are allowed to miss up to three classes before a penalty is applied to their attendance and participation grade. If students cannot attend class due to illness, poor weather, family matters, or any other unexpected events, the absence is counted as one of the three allowable absences.**

NOTE: As of March 11th, the course will no longer be using *Tophat* to track participation and attendance. We will use the period from January 13th to March 11th to calculate attendance grades. The rule allowing students to miss up to three classes before a penalty is applied will remain the same. For example if students missed three attendance marks or less during the period

¹Class schedule and assigned due dates may be subject to change.

Table 2: Tutorial Schedule

Week	Lab Topic	Lab Readings
Week 1	No LAB	
Week 2	1. Basics of SPSS & Data Structure	Lab Manual Ch.1
Week 3	2. Univariate 1- central tendency, types of variables	Lab Manual Ch.2
Week 4	3. Univariate 2 - dispersion, data transformation	Lab Manual Ch.3, Ch.4
Week 5	4. Bivariate 1 - nominal & ordinal variables	Lab Manual Ch.5
Week 6	No LAB	
Week 7	5. Bivariate 2 - PRE: lambda only	Lab Manual Ch.7
Week 8	6. Bivariate 3 - continuous variables	Lab Manual Ch.8
Week 9	7. Trivariate 1 - crosstabs	Lab Manual Ch.6
Week 10	8. Trivariate 2 -scatter plots	Lab Manual Ch.6
Week 11	Lab session	
Week 12	9. Multiple regression 1 - slope & effect size	Textbook Ch. 17 (p. 321-332)
Week 13	10. Multiple regression 2 - confidence intervals, t-tests	Lab Manual Ch.9 & Ch.10
Week 14	No LAB	

from January 13th to March 11th, then students will receive full marks on this portion of their grade.

Exams (60%) (Mid-Term 25%, Final Exam 35%) There will be two exams given during the term. The exams will focus on the material covered in the book, in lecture, and in the tutorials. All exams are closed-book. The Mid-Term and the Final will include multiple choice, true-false, and long answer questions. Students will be given 50 minutes for the Mid-Term Exam. The Final Exam will be available on D2L under the quiz tab on April 21 between 9:00am and 4:00pm. Students are allowed to use the entire seven hours to complete the exam, but I expect it will take about two hours to finish. Study aids including lecture notes, student notes, and textbook are permitted during the exams. The Final Exam will be cumulative.

Grading

1. The following is the general guidelines on the percentage breakdowns for determining your final letter grade in the course: 100-95 A+, 94-90 A, 89-85 A-, 84-80 B+, 79-75 B, 74-70 B-, 69-65 C+, 64-60 C, 59-55 C-, 54-53 D+, 52-50 D, 49 and lower F. There are no extra credit assignments available in the course. Your final grade will be solely based on the assignments/components laid out above.

Writing Statement: Written assignments are often required in Political Science courses, including this one, and the quality of writing skills, including but not limited to such elements as grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, clarity, citation, and organization, will be taken into account in the determination of grades. Students are encouraged to make use of the services offered through Writing Support Services in the Student Success Centre (3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library) or at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>.

Important Departmental, Faculty and University Information

Supporting Documentation and the Use of a Statutory Declaration:

As stated in the University Calendar:

Students may be asked to provide supporting documentation for an exemption/special request. This may include, but is not limited to, a prolonged absence from a course where participation is required, a missed course assessment, a deferred examination, or an appeal. Students are encouraged to submit documentation that will support their situation. Supporting documentation may be dependent on the reason noted in their personal statement/explanation provided to explain their situation. This could be medical certificate/documentation, references, police reports, invitation letter, third party letter of support or a statutory declaration etc. The decision to provide supporting documentation that best suits the situation is at the discretion of the student. Students cannot be required to provide specific supporting documentation, such as a medical note.

Students can make a Statutory Declaration as their supporting documentation (available at ucalgary.ca/registrar/). This requires students to make a declaration in the presence of a Commissioner for Oaths. It demonstrates the importance of honest and accurate information provided and is a legally binding declaration. Several registered Commissioners for Oaths are available to students at no charge, on campus. For a list of locations to access a Commissioners for Oaths, visit <https://ucalgary.ca/registrar/>.

Falsification of any supporting documentation will be taken very seriously and may result in disciplinary action through the Academic Discipline regulations or the Student Non-Academic Misconduct policy.

This statement is accessible at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html>

Please note that while the form of supporting documentation provided is at the discretion of the student, the instructor has the discretion not to accept the supporting documentation if it does not corroborate the reason(s) given for the exemption/special request.

Absence From the Mid-term Examination: Students who are absent from a scheduled term test or quiz for legitimate reasons are responsible for contacting the instructor via email within 48 hours of the missed test to discuss alternative arrangements. A copy of this email may be requested as proof of the attempt to contact the instructor. Any student who fails to do so forfeits the right to a makeup test.

Deferral of the Final Examination: Deferral of a final examination can be granted for reasons of illness, domestic affliction, and unforeseen circumstances, as well as to those with three (3) final exams scheduled within a 24-hour period. Deferred final exams will not be granted to those who sit the exam, who have made travel arrangements that conflict with their exam, or who have misread the examination timetable. The decision to allow a deferred final exam rests not with the instructor but with Enrollment Services. Instructors should, however, be notified if you will be absent during the examination. The Application for Deferred Final Exam, deadlines, requirements and submission instructions can be found on the Enrollment Services website at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>.

Appeals: If you think that your assignment has been graded unfairly, we can talk about it during office hours (but not in the classroom during or right after class). However, before we meet in my office to talk about your grade, you must submit in writing an explanation detailing where (e.g. what question) and why you think that you received insufficient credit for your answer. Be forewarned: I will not accept explanations arguing that because you studied really hard for the test, your overall grade was just not high enough. You need to be able to show specific grading errors on my part. If the meeting does not resolve the matter, the student can then proceed with an academic appeal. The first step in an academic appeal is to set up a meeting with the Department Head. Appeals must be requested within 15 days of receipt of the graded assignment.

University Regulations: Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the University policies found in the Academic Regulations sections of the Calendar at www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-reg.html.

Student Accommodations: Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf.

Plagiarism And Other Forms Of Academic Misconduct: Academic misconduct in any form (e.g. cheating, plagiarism) is a serious academic offence that can lead to disciplinary probation, suspension or expulsion from the University. Students are expected to be familiar with the standards surrounding academic honesty; these can be found in the University of Calgary calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html>. Such offences will be taken seriously and reported immediately, as required by Faculty of Arts policy.

Copyright Legislation: As stated in the University of Calgary Calendar, Academic Regulations, “students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright and requirements of the copyright act to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.” <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf> and <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP): FOIP legislation requires that instructors maintain the confidentiality of student information. In practice, this means that student assignment and tests cannot be left for collection in any public place without the consent of the student. It also means that grades cannot be distributed via email. Final exams are kept by

instructors but can be viewed by contacting them or the main office in the Department of Political Science. Any uncollected assignments and tests meant to be returned will be destroyed after six months from the end of term; final examinations are destroyed after one year.

Policy on Recording or Taking Photos during Lectures: Except for accommodation purposes, students may not record or take photos of any portion of a lecture, class discussion or course-related learning activity without the prior and explicit written permission of the course instructor.

Evacuation Assembly Points: In the event of an emergency evacuation from class, students are required to gather in designated assembly points. Please check the list found at www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assembliespoints and note the assembly point nearest to your classroom.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources: For program planning and advice, visit the Arts Students' Centre in Social Sciences 102, call 403-220-3580 or email artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/advising> for program assistance.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit their office in the MacKimmie Tower, Room 116.

Important Contact Information:

Campus Security and Safewalk (24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year)
Phone: 403-220-5333

Faculty of Arts Undergraduate Students' Union Representatives
Phone: 403-220-6551
Email: arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca,
arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca
Students' Union URL: www.su.ucalgary.ca

Graduate Students' Association
Phone: 403-220-5997
Email: askgsa@ucalgary.ca
URL: www.ucalgary.ca/gsa

Student Ombudsman
Phone: 403-220-6420
Email: ombuds@ucalgary.ca

Campus Mental Health Resources

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive supports when needed. We encourage you to explore the excellent mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through the: Student Wellness Services (Room 370, MacEwan Student Centre): <https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellness-services/services/mental-health-services> and the Campus Mental Health Strategy website: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>.

SU Wellness Centre: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/>