

University of Arkansas Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

POLS 3803 Social Research Methods and Statistics

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Lab Hours: 0

Prerequisite: Senior standing; fifteen hours of POLS coursework, STAT 2503 Probability and Statistics I, or consent of department head.

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

A computer-assisted introduction to social research methods and statistics, including the techniques of research design, administration, and analysis.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Develop strategies for doing Political Science research incorporating a range of social science and historical disciplines.
2. Design a survey questionnaire that tests current trends in American political beliefs, party affiliation, and predicts potential election outcomes.
3. Administer a survey, using the latest technology and media forms, to accurately predict outcomes of movement in public opinion on a range of domestic and foreign policy topics.
4. Analyze, using advanced statistical principles, from a quantitative and qualitative perspective, the implications of a social science data in regard to past and current trends of thought in the American electorate, with future prediction of trends a key element.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills

Quantitative Reasoning

Students will generate solutions to/analysis of various issues that may corrode the accuracy of social research and statistical outcomes. They will assess and justify the solutions to and/or analysis of issues associated sounds statistical and research methods. Students will apply appropriate statistical models to understand social research methods. Students will represent statistical information symbolically, visually, numerically and verbally and will interpret models and data in order to draw relevant inferences. They will also recognize the limitations of quantitative analysis.

Communication Skills (Written and Oral)

Students will formulate and administer a survey, interpret the data from the survey, communicate survey results in a clear and understandable manner. Students will compose coherent documents appropriate to get their points across to classmates and to the instructor.

Ethical Decision Making

Students will identify ethical dilemmas associated with social research methods and statistics and apply ethical frameworks to resolve a variety of ethical dilemmas facing social science researchers.

Global and Cultural Perspectives

Students will reflect upon universal canons of social research and how the result of social science is globally applied. Students will demonstrate how social research methods and statistics impact or are impacted by different political cultures.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. Survey Design
- B. Interviewing
- C. Cross tabulations
- D. Analysis using basic statistics
- E. Analysis using measures of central tendency and ANOVA
- F. Regression Analysis