Dr. Todd A. Curry  
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Office Hours: Th - 9 – 11am or by appointment  

Course Description (from Graduate Catalog):  
This course further explores methods of quantitative analysis and hypothesis testing, including data management, various regression estimation methods, diagnostic techniques, and other topics. Prerequisite: POLS 5300 or equivalent course with a minimum grade of "B" or better.  

Course Overview and Objectives:  
This course will build upon the techniques of data management and analysis in POLS 5300. To that end, we will examine topics such as two variable linear regression, multi-variable linear regression, Gauss-Markov assumptions, multicollinearity, heteroscedasticity, and autocorrelation. We also delve into maximum likelihood estimation, including a few different models for qualitative response. We will be working primarily with the software STATA.  

Texts:  

Grading:  
The final course grade is based entirely upon performance on the exams and case brief as stated below: 
- Midterm Exam - 20%  
- Final Exam - 20%  
- Research Paper - 40%  
- Homework Assignments - 10% (total)  
- Class Participation - 10%  

Policies:  
The student who chooses not to attend class does so at their own peril. While attendance will not be formally recorded, your grade will most certainly drop if you do not attend. If you are not in attendance when I call on you in class, you will receive a zero for the day. This will be explained in depth in class.
Information for the students will be communicated in two ways. 1. In class; 2. Through email. The only email address I will use to contact you is your official “utep.edu” account. This means as a requirement of this course you will need to regularly check this account if you do not already. “I did not receive notification,” is not a valid excuse.

**Grading Scale:**
The following numerical averages translate into final course grades:

- 90: A (4.0)
- 80-89: B (3.0)
- 70-79: C (2.0)
- 60-69: D (1.0)
- <60: F (0.0)

**Exams:**

There will be two exams, a midterm and a final. Both exams will happen in class and will include data analysis as part of the exam.

- **Midterm:** March 21
- **Final:** May 9 7:00pm-9:45pm

**Make-Up Exams:**

It is completely the student’s responsibility to take the exams when they are scheduled. As a general rule, make-up exams will not be allowed; thus, a missed exam counts as a zero (0) toward the final course grade. Notwithstanding, at the instructor’s sole discretion make-ups will be permitted, but only the gravest of reasons will be accepted, if documented in writing by the proper authority. Even if there is an acceptable reason for missing the regularly scheduled exam, permission to take a make-up will be granted only if the student provides the professor with prompt and proper notice; that is, the student must inform the professor of the reason for missing the exam with proper documentation before the exam takes place, and the reason must be acceptable to the instructor. If a make-up is permitted, both the format and questions can, and likely will, be different from the regularly scheduled exam.

**Academic Honesty and Integrity:**

Per UTEP policy: The University of Texas at El Paso prides itself on its standards of academic excellence. In all matters of intellectual pursuit, UTEP faculty and students must strive to achieve excellence based on the quality of work produced by the individual. In the classroom and in all other academic activities, students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity. Any form of scholastic dishonesty is an affront to the pursuit of knowledge and jeopardizes the quality of the degree awarded to all graduates of UTEP. It is imperative, therefore, that the members of this academic community understand the regulations pertaining to academic integrity and that all faculty insist on adherence to these standards.
Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, and any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. Proven violations of the detailed regulations, as printed in the Handbook of Operating Procedures (HOP) and available in the Office of the Dean of Students and the homepage of The Dean of Students at www.utep.edu/dos, may result in sanctions ranging from disciplinary probation, to failing a grade on the work in question, to a failing grade in the course, to suspension or dismissal, among others.

Special Needs:

If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to cass@utep.edu, or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at www.sa.utep.edu/cass. CASS’ Staff are the only individuals who can validate and if need be, authorize accommodations for students with disabilities.

Research Paper

Given that you have already produced an empirical, quantitative research paper for 5300, this paper/process should be familiar. I expect you to develop sound, theory based, testable hypotheses, find/collection data which will facilitate the testing of those hypotheses, and write them in a format that would be worthy of presenting at an academic conference. The forward thinking student will use this research paper as a starting point for their thesis research.

1. The paper should be double spaced, a minimum 15 pages and a maximum of 30 pages (not counting the references and cover page). 12 point Times New Roman font should be used throughout the paper.
2. Be wary of quotations. The literature review portion of the paper is intended to be a synthesis of the relevant literature, not a regurgitation. Put it in your own words, to lead to your theoretical story.
3. At this point I expect you to understand what plagiarism is and to actively avoid it. If you do not properly cite both in text and at the end of the document, you will be penalized.
4. Use APSA style for the entire format of the paper including citations. A style guide is available here: http://www.apsanet.org/media/PDFS/Publications/APSAManual2006.pdf
5. Please put figures and tables at the end of the document.
6. Use as many sources as you need to build your theoretical story and properly source your paper. I will not give a minimum number of citations, but I have never written a paper where the works cited took less than two pages, though it is often longer.
7. You will need to present your findings to the class in the last class meeting. This presentation should be around 15 minutes. It will be worth 20% of the research paper grade. This process will be discussed in class.
8. Please discuss your paper with me over the course of the semester during office hours and by appointment.
9. The deadline for this paper will be EDIT this (the beginning of our final exam). I will also need a digital copy emailed to me at this time as well.

**Homework:**

There will be five homework assignments over the course of the semester. Three will be related to the research paper, while the other two will serve as reviews for the midterm and the final.

Homework #1 (due FEB 8 at the start of class): Choose a topic which you want to research. In a maximum three pages, identify the anticipated causal relationship which you wish to examine and formulate the hypothesis(ses). Furthermore, indentify what other factors you should control for in the analysis.

Homework #2 (due Mar 14 at the start of class): Provide a summary of the relevant literature on your research topic. Correctly cite the relevant literature that has led to your theoretical contribution. This should be a maximum of five pages.

Homework #3 (due Apr 4 at the start of class): Discuss your dependent and independent variables and how they are operationalized. Identify your data sources and explain how the variables are related to your hypotheses. Lastly, discuss your modeling strategy and what post estimation tests you will employ. Maximum five pages.

**University Writing Center:**

The University Writing Center is a useful tool each of you should take advantage of in the course of writing this paper. While I do not require you to go, I can say definitively that your paper will be improved following a consultation with the staff. The staff sees students through appointments or walk-ins, though appointments are preferred. For more information and the registration form go http://academics.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=47508

**Class Schedule:**
We meet every Monday from 6:00-8:50pm during the semester, with the exception of the following dates during which class is cancelled:

March 7-11 Spring Break

**Schedule of Assignments:**

Section 1 - Linear Regression
Week 1 - Jan 25
  Read: Gujarati CHP 1.
Week 2 – Feb 1
Read Gujarati CHP 2&3

Week 3 - Feb 8
Read Gujarati CHP 4&5
Homework #1 due

Week 4 - Feb 15
Read Gujarati CHP 7-9

Week 5 - Feb 22
Read Gujarati CHP 10

Week 6 - Feb 29
Read Gujarati CHP 11

Week 7 - Mar 14
Read Gujarati CHP 12&13
Homework #2 due
Review homework assigned.

Week 8 - Mar 21
Review homework due.
Midterm

Week 9 - Mar 28
Read Gujarati 14&15

Week 10 - Apr 4
Readings on Count Models
Homework #3 due

Week 11 - Apr 11
Readings on Logit/Probit

Week 12 - Apr 18
Readings on Multinomial and Ordered Logit

Week 13 – Apr 15
Readings on Event History

Week 14 - May 2
Class presentations
Review Homework assigned. Due at the final.