Political Science 599: Intro to Empirical Methods in Political Analysis

Fall 2016
TuTh 4–5:30 (G026 TISCH)
Professor: Walter R. Mebane, Jr.
Office: 7735 Haven Hall; email wmebane@umich.edu
Office hours: Tue 1–3 or other times by appointment.
Lab: Thu 12–1 (G128 AH)
GSI: Jason Davis
Office: 7734 Haven Hall; email jasonsd@umich.edu
Office hours: XXX or other times by appointment.

Course web page: in CTools; syllabus also at http://www.umich.edu/~wmebane/ps599.html

Assignment Due Dates

due date description weight
TBA several problem sets 85%
— participation 15%

Reading Availability

I’ve requested that most of the books that are cited as reading sources be placed on 4-hour reserve. Some of the snippets from some of the books are posted on the course C-Tools site.

Class meeting and reading schedule

1. count data, conditional association and Simpson’s paradox (Sep 8)

2. measurement, summary statistics: plots, moments and quantiles (Sep 13–15)


3. probability, distributions, sampling (Sep 20–22)


4. parameters and estimation (least squares, moments, ML, Bayes) (Sep 27–Oct 6)


5. regression (Oct 11–20)


6. regression estimation (least squares, ML, MCMC) (Oct 25–Nov 1)


7. hypothesis tests and confidence intervals, posterior distributions (Nov 3–15)


8. trends and spurious regressions, dynamics and autocorrelation (Nov 17)


9. contingency tables and regression with categorical outcomes (Nov 22–Dec 1)


10. theories and causality (Dec 6–8)


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11. outliers and rank statistics (Dec 13)


12. latent variables and dimension reduction (Dec 13)


Following are a few other books you may wish to consult. Many other books may also be helpful. Too many to name! And articles.


