Political Science 599: Intro to Empirical Methods in Political Analysis

Fall 2017
TuTh 4–5:30 (7603 HH)
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Course web page: in CTools; syllabus also at http://www.umich.edu/~wmebane/ps599.html

Assignment Due Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>due date</th>
<th>description</th>
<th>weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>several problem sets</td>
<td>85%</td>
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<tr>
<td>—</td>
<td>participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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I expect problem sets will be due Sept 19, Oct 3, Oct 19, Nov 7, Nov 21, Nov 30, Dec 12 and Dec 19.

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 Canvass site.

Class meeting and reading schedule

1. count data, conditional association and Simpson’s paradox (Sep 7)

2. measurement, summary statistics: plots, moments and quantiles (Sep 12–14)


3. probability, distributions, sampling (Sep 19–21)


4. parameters and estimation (least squares, moments, ML, Bayes) (Sep 26–Oct 5)


5. regression (Oct 10–19)


6. regression estimation (least squares, ML, MCMC) (Oct 24–31)


7. hypothesis tests and confidence intervals, posterior distributions (Nov 2–14)


8. trends and spurious regressions, dynamics and autocorrelation (Nov 16)


9. contingency tables and regression with categorical outcomes (Nov 21–30)


10. theories and causality (Dec 5–7 (or 12))


Judea Pearl. 2017. “The Eight Pillars of Causal Wisdom,” An edited transcript of a lecture given at the West Coast Experiments, April 2017 video posted at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8nHVUFq1ozk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8nHVUFq1ozk)


11. outliers and rank statistics (Dec 12)


12. latent variables and dimension reduction (Dec 12)


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


