MEETING TIMES AND VENUE

Class meets twice per week on Tuesdays and Thursdays for 75 minutes in XXX, room XXX. Each class starts at XXX. Office hours are on Tuesday/Thursday 9.30am-11am.

OVERVIEW

This course is designed to provide students with a thorough understanding of the various quantitative research methods available to researchers in social science and with the knowledge of how practically apply them to various problems. At the end of the course, students will be able to recognize situations in which a particular quantitative research method can be used to analyze a certain question and identify the appropriate tools and methodology to use in providing sound and significant results. The course engages students in problem solving techniques, numerical reasoning, and the collection and interpretation of quantitative data and statistical analysis. In the second part of the course, we will focus on
experimental methods in political science, which over the last two decades have been used extensively by political scientists and economists to address questions of causality. The emphasis of the course will be quantitative. During the semester students will learn to use quantitative analysis for different research methods through a set of assignments. These assignments will require students to apply the quantitative techniques that they are learning about in class. Similarly, students will be tested with midterm and final exams that require quantitative reasoning.

**Textbooks**

The required textbooks for this class are:

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- Morton, Rebecca and Kenneth Williams (2011) “From Nature to the Lab: Experimental Political Science and the Study of Causality”.

Papers and extra readings used in class will be posted on Blackboard.

**Grades**

This course requires quantitative intensive work. You will be graded in this course on the basis of several factors:
- To reinforce the theoretical concepts we develop in class, you will be given 3 homework assignments that will run between 5(minimum) and 8(maximum) pages in length throughout the semester. These assignments will account for 30% of your final grade. They are an excellent guide for the types of quantitative questions that will appear on your Midterm/Final. Note that I encourage students to work together on the HW assignments. However, each student must submit their own solutions individually. Late problem sets will not be accepted.
- There will be one midterm exam and one final exam which will constitute 60% of your grade (30% each). These are cumulative and will test concepts you should have learned
from the assigned readings and the lectures. In the midterm and final exams you will be required to apply the quantitative techniques that you have learned in class.

- You will also be graded on class participation and evidence of reading material assigned in advance (10%).

Summing up, grades will be computed on the following basis:

- Midterm exam (30%)
- Final exam (30%)
- Assignments (30%)
- Attendance and Participation (10%)

Grades will be determined according to the following grading scale:

CLASSROOM CIVILITY
Your behavior should respect your classmates desire to learn. Each lecture begins exactly on time. Coming late is disruptive no matter how quiet you are. Do not engage in side conversations during the lecture. Eating and drinking in class should be reduced to a minimum. It is not forbidden, but please make sure that you are not disturbing others with noise and enticing aromas. Dozing off in an early morning class is not a cardinal sin, but be sure not to make a spectacle of yourself. It is extremely disrespectful to do this in an ostentatious manner. Turn off all cell phones. If you have to leave a class early, inform your instructor in advance. It is very rude to simply walk out in the middle of a lecture. Repeated occurrence of such disruptions will be reflected in the final grade.

CLASSROOM ATTENDANCE
Class attendance is mandatory and part of a student’s grade. Absences may be excused only in the case of documented serious illness, family emergency, religious observance, or civic obligation. If you will miss class for religious observance or civic obligation, you must inform your instructor no later than the first week of class.

RE-GRADING
The statute of limitations on re-grade requests is two weeks from the time the graded assignment was made available. I reserve the right to re-grade your entire assignment.
MAKEUPS

Assignments: You can hand in your assignment anytime in a 2-weeks window. Unless you have a valid reason such as a serious illness that prevent you to attend classes in that 2 weeks period (you will be expected to bring in proof), any assignment not submitted in time will be awarded zero points toward your final grade.

Midterm exam: Make-up exams will not be available for students without an acceptable explanation or for who fail to notify the instructor. A valid excuse is a medical emergency, a death or serious illness in the family, and, quite frankly, very little else. In all cases, you will be asked to file a written explanation of absence with me and you will be expected to bring in proof.

Final exam (UNC policy): Students are expected to take their final examinations at the published date and time. The final examination for this course covers two hours and it will start promptly at the time published on http://registrar.unc.edu/AcademicCalendar/index.htm. See UNC exam policy at: http://provost.unc.edu/policies/pdfs/Class%20Attendance%20Policy%208-18-10.pdf

Only in exceptional circumstances are make-up exams permitted.

- Three exams in twenty-four hours & time conflicts. If you have three final examinations scheduled by the Registrar's Office within a twenty-four hour period or two exams with conflicting exam times you may receive an "Examination Excuse" from your dean's office. In the event that one of the scheduled examinations is a common final examination for a multiple-section course, that examination is the one to be rescheduled. To obtain an "Examination Excuse" for these reasons, meet with a full-time advisor or assistant dean on your advising team.

- Medical Examination Excuses If you are seriously ill during the time of your final examination(s) (including complications related to pregnancy), you should consult Campus Health Services about having your name entered on the "Infirmary List." To take a final examination, students on the "Infirmary List" may obtain an "Official Permit" from the Office of the Registrar. You must make arrangements to take the final
examination with your course instructor and provide the
instructor with your "Official Permit."

- **Other Compelling Reasons** If you have other unexpected and compelling reasons requiring you to miss a final examination, including, for example, the serious health condition of a child for whom you are the primary caregiver, you should call to make an appointment to discuss the possibility of obtaining an examination excuse with one of the assistant deans in your dean's office. In the case of the illness of a child for whom you are the primary caregiver, the University may request medical verification and a physician's statement of how long you are likely to need excused from your academic responsibilities.

- **Rules About Completing Your Make-up Exam** If you did not take a final examination(s) for one of the reasons previously cited and you have been issued an "Examination Excuse" or an "Official Permit," you must present this excuse or permit to the course instructor when arrangements are made for a suitable time to take the final examination. If the excuse or permit is presented to an instructor or the instructor's departmental chair or dean, then a final examination must be given. In all cases in which an examination is to be rescheduled, the instructor may reschedule that examination during the final examination period, or before the end of the following semester. Students will need to arrange a mutually convenient time with the instructor for the make-up exam.

The final examination in any course may be taken only by regularly enrolled members of the class whose registration has been certified and by students certified to be eligible to take a special examination in that course. The certifying authority is the Registrar's Office. Each student is required to sign a full and explicit pledge certifying that he or she has neither given nor received aid during the examination.

**STUDENT ATHLETES**

If you are a student athlete, inform me a.s.a.p. of interferences with your commitments as an athlete (especially conflicts with exam dates). You will be expected to bring in a letter from the athletics department. The sooner you notify us, the better that we will be able to accommodate you.
**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**
Inform your instructor a.s.a.p. of special needs that you may have like larger printouts of quizzes and exams or extra time on an exam. You will be expected to bring in a letter from the center for students with disabilities. The sooner you notify us, the better that we will be able to accommodate you.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**
A fundamental tenet of all educational institutions is academic honesty; academic work depends upon respect for and acknowledgment of the work and ideas of others. Misrepresenting someone else's work as one's own is a serious offense in any academic setting and it will not be condoned.

Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to, providing or receiving assistance in a manner not authorized by the instructor in the creation of work to be submitted for academic evaluation (e.g. papers, projects, examinations and assessments - whether online or in class); presenting, as one's own, the ideas, words or calculations of another for academic evaluation; doing unauthorized academic work for which another person will receive credit or be evaluated; using unauthorized aids in preparing work for evaluation (e.g. unauthorized formula sheets, unauthorized calculators, unauthorized programs or formulas loaded into your calculator, etc.); and presenting the same or substantially the same papers or projects in two or more courses without the explicit permission of the instructors involved.

A student who knowingly assists another student in committing an act of academic misconduct shall be equally accountable for the violation, and shall be subject to the sanctions and other remedies described in The Student Code. Sanctions shall include, but are not limited to, a letter sent to the Dean of Students of the University; a grade of 0 on the assignment or exam; a grade of F for the course.
COURSE OUTLINE  

WEEK 1-2  
Research in Political Science  
Theories and models  
Reading Assignments:  
- Remler- Van Ryzin, chapter 1, 2

WEEK 3  
Primary Data Collection: Surveys and Observation, Experiments  
Reading Assignments:  
- Remler- Van Ryzin, chapter 7  
- Morton, chapter 1  
- Friedman, chapter 9

WEEK 4  
Causation  
Reading Assignments:  
- Remler- Van Ryzin, chapter 10, 11

WEEK 5  
Fundamentals of experimentation: manipulation, control, and random assignment. Experimentation’s strengths and shortcomings. Difference between experiments, simulations, and natural experiments. Field experiments and natural experiments.  
Reading Assignments:  
- Friedman, chapter 1  
- Morton, chapter 2-3  
- Iyengar et al 1982. “Experimental demonstrations of the “not-so-minimal” consequences of television news programs”.

WEEK 6  
Conceptualization and measurement problems.  
Natural Experiments  
Reading Assignments:  
- Remler- Van Ryzin, chapter 4  
- Remler- Van Ryzin, chapter 13
WEEK 7
Field experiments.

*Reading Assignments:*
- Remler- Van Ryzin, chapter 12

WEEK 8-9
Laboratory experiments: principles and experimental designs.  
Methodology of conducting an experiment.  
Human subjects and ethics.  

*Reading Assignments:*
- Friedman, chapter 2, 3
- Friedman, chapter 4, 5, 6
- Morton, chapter 6

WEEK 10
Discussion of internal and external validity.

*Reading Assignments:*
- Morton, chapter 4, 5

WEEK 11
Examples of classic game theoretic experiments, with particular emphasis on ultimatum and public good games.

*Reading Assignments:*
- Chaudhuri, chapter 2
- Daws et al, 19xx. “Organizing groups for collective action”.
- Chaudhuri, chapter 4

WEEK 12
Examples of other game theoretic experiments, with particular emphasis on coordination games.

*Reading Assignments:*
- Chaudhuri, chapter 5
**WEEK 13**
Examples of other game theoretic experiments, with particular emphasis on the effect of information on elections.
Reading Assignments:
- Kinder, chapter 4

**WEEK 14-15**
Political psychology experiments on Framing

*Reading Assignments:*

**WEEK 16**
When we should engage in experimental research? What is the role of Experimental Political Science?