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**course time:** We will meet on Zoom on Mondays and Wednesdays, 11:00am-11:50am. We will also meet on Zoom on two Saturdays from 11:00am-11:50am (September 26 and October 24).

**lab times:** Labs will be on Zoom on Wednesdays, 1:00-1:50; Fridays 11:00-11:50; and Fridays 1:00-1:50. The computer lab SCHAR 4022 will be open during your lab time. However, you are not required to come to SCHAR 4022 for lab time (and Dr. Strausz won't be there).

**office hours (on Zoom):** Wednesdays from 2:00-3:00 and Fridays from 9:00am-10:50am or by appointment.

**Response Time:** I will respond to emails within 24 hours during the week, and within 48 hours during weekends and holidays.

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### **Final Exam Date**

The final exam will be made available on **Monday, November 23 at 11:00am on D2L**. The exam will be multiple choice and short answer. You will be permitted to reference your notes as you take the exam. You will have 24 hours to begin the exam once it is posted, and once you begin the exam, you will have two hours to complete it.

### **Course Description**

This course has two aims. First, it is my goal for you to become better consumers of the work of professional political scientists. You will learn skills including how to evaluate the measurement of concepts, interpret statistical tables, and think critically about both qualitative and quantitative research designs. In short, you will learn to evaluate the strength of factual claims about politics. Second, it is my goal for you to learn to use the tools of empirical inquiry to become producers of your own political science research. You will learn to ask good questions, assemble competing explanations, gather data to test those explanations, analyze those data, and draw conclusions. Both of these sets of skills—becoming better consumers and producers of political science research—will help you in your other courses, and they will help you in life beyond college as well.

This is not a statistics class; it is a class about how political scientists do research. Because political scientists often use statistics in their research, we will pay a lot of attention to statistics, but we will also discuss qualitative research techniques, and we will spend time thinking about things like measurement, case selection, and research design, which are important for both quantitative and qualitative research.

### **Required Texts / Materials**

You are required to have access to a computer with an internet connection that is able to stream videos. If this is not possible, please let me know as soon as you can and we can discuss ways to get you access to a computer.

You are also required to have these two texts for the duration of the class. Both electronic and hard copies will work, but please make sure to get the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of each:

Pollock III, Philip H, and Barry C Edwards. 2019. *The Essentials of Political Analysis*, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition. CQ Press.

Pollock III, Philip H, and Barry C Edwards. 2019. *An IBM® SPSS® Companion to Political Analysis*, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition. CQ Press.

If the cost of buying or renting these texts is too much for you, please contact me as soon as you can to discuss alternatives.

### **Course Policies and Requirements**

#### **Assignments**

Exams: This class will have midterm exams on **September 23** and **October 21** and a final exam on **Monday, November 23**. All three of these exams will be available on D2L at 11am on exam day, and you will have 24 hours to begin the exam. All of the exams will be a combination of short answer and multiple choice. You will be permitted to reference your book and notes as you take these exams. Given the importance of the concepts we are discussing in this class toward your future political science classes, the second midterm exam and the final exam are cumulative, meaning you will continue to be tested on key concepts throughout the course.

Lab videos and quizzes: Before each lab you will be required to watch a short video and then take a short quiz. You should plan to watch these videos from a computer or a tablet with large screen, as the small text in the SPSS demonstrations will be difficult to see on a phone or small tablet. The quizzes will both cover the content of the videos as well as concepts that we have discussed in class.

Lab assignments: In each lab, you will have the chance to apply some of concepts that we have gone over in lecture. For many students, this is the most exciting part of the class. You will be learning how to use the software SPSS to analyze real world data, including surveys of Americans, data on countries, and data on US states. SPSS is an extremely powerful piece of software that you can use to do professional quality data analysis. Unless otherwise noted, each lab assignment will be due by the beginning of your next lab.

Attendance: I expect you to virtually attend the synchronous Zoom sessions on Mondays and Wednesday from 11:00-11:50. I will also record them, and if you cannot attend for any reason, I expect you to watch the recording and email me four questions and/or insights that occurred to you as you watched the video before the next synchronous Zoom session. You will get a 100 for each Monday/Wednesday session that you either attend or watch on video and send me four questions/insights about, and you will get a 0 if you do not attend a session or email me about the video before the next session.

I also expect you to attend the labs if you can, but I will not record them since they will largely involve us helping one another complete lab assignments. You are not required to email me with questions or insights about labs that you missed (although you are welcome to do so).

Homework: I will occasionally assign short exercises to complete at home or in class. The grades that you earn on these will be averaged together into your homework grade.

Reading: I expect students to read assigned materials before coming to class and lab (see the course schedule beginning on page 6 of this document for readings). Reading the assigned materials will set you up to get more out of lectures and labs. Timely and careful completion of the assigned reading will help you with your performance on the exams, on the lab quizzes, and on the labs.

### Grading

Assignments, Exams/Quizzes, Presentations, etc.	Percentage
First exam	14%
Second exam	19%
Final exam	24%
Lab video quizzes	5%
Lab assignments (Labs 1-9 are each worth 2% of your final grade and lab 10 is worth 5% of your final grade)	23%
Homework assignments	5%
Attendance	10%

Grades are determined on a 100-point scale as follows:

A: 93.5 and above	B: 82.5-86.4	C: 72.5-76.4	D: 62.5-66.4
A-: 89.5-93.4	B-: 79.5-82.4	C-: 69.5-72.4	D-: 59.5-62.4
B+: 86.5-89.4	C+: 76.5-79.4	D+: 66.5-69.4	F: 59.4 and below

If you feel that you have been graded unfairly on any course assignment, please wait 24 hours after the assignment is returned and then contact me with a typed statement about why you believe you were graded unfairly. This statement must provide substantive reasons why you believe that you were graded unfairly. The appeal process must be started one week after the material was returned.

### Late Work

In general, I do not accept late quizzes, homework assignments, or exams. I accept late lab assignments, but with a 10 point penalty (out of 100) per 24 hours late. However, if you miss or are late in submitting any assignment because of an Official University Absence, an illness, or a personal or family emergency, please communicate with me as soon as you can we can discuss rescheduling your work.

## **Participation / Engagement**

I expect students to regularly attend Zoom sessions, pay attention, and participate (or, if you are not able to attend, I expect you to watch the video of the Zoom session and email me four questions or insights before the next Zoom session). If I call on a student during a Zoom session and he or she does not answer, I will email that student to check in and see what was going on. If that happens again, I may count that student as absent for that day.

## **Class Norms & Netiquette**

All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, discussions, and chats. If I deem any of them to be inappropriate or offensive, I will forward the message to the Chair of the department and appropriate action will be taken, not excluding expulsion from the course. The same rules apply online as they do in person. Be respectful of other students. Foul discourse will not be tolerated. Please take a moment and read the [basic norms about netiquette](#).

Participating in the virtual realm, including social media sites and shared-access sites sometimes used for educational collaborations, should be done with honor and integrity. Please review [TCU's guidelines on electronic communications](#) (email, text messages, social networks, etc.) from the Student Handbook.

## **Email**

Only the official TCU student email address will be used for all course notification. It is your responsibility to check your TCU email on a regular basis.

## **Course Materials**

TCU students are prohibited from sharing any portion of course materials (including videos, PowerPoint slides, assignments, or notes) with others, including on social media, without written permission by the course instructor. Accessing, copying, transporting (to another person or location), modifying, or destroying programs, records, or data belonging to TCU or another user without authorization, whether such data is in transit or storage, is prohibited. The full policy can be found at: <https://security.tcu.edu/polproc/usage-policy/>.

**Violating this policy is considered a violation of Section 3.2.15 of the Student Code of Conduct** (this policy may be found in the Student Handbook at <https://tcu.codes/code/index/>), **and may also constitute Academic Misconduct or Disruptive Classroom Behavior** (these policies may be found in the undergraduate catalog at <https://tcu.smartcatalogiq.com/current/Undergraduate-Catalog/Student-Policies/Academic-Conduct-Policy-Details>). TCU encourages student debate and discourse; accordingly, TCU generally interprets and applies its policies, including the policies referenced above, consistent with the values of free expression and First Amendment principles.

Further, if a student anticipates that they will not consent to instructor's video and/or audio participation being recorded, they need to contact the instructor immediately so

the instructor may work with the student to determine how to assess their class participation and assignments that may require collaboration during the class session.

### **Academic Misconduct**

Academic Misconduct (Sec. 3.4 from the [TCU Code of Student Conduct](#)): Any act that violates the academic integrity of the institution is considered academic misconduct. The procedures used to resolve suspected acts of academic misconduct are available in the offices of Academic Deans and the Office of Campus Life and are also listed in detail in the [Undergraduate Catalog](#) and the [Graduate Catalog](#).

### **Recording of Class Sessions**

Our class sessions will all be recorded for use by enrolled students, including those who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are consenting to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are consenting to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the “chat” feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live.

## **Support for TCU Students**

### **Statement on Title IX at TCU**

As an instructor, one of my responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment on our campus. It is my goal that you feel able to share information related to your life experiences in classroom discussions, in your written work, and in our one-on-one meetings. I will seek to keep any information you share private to the greatest extent possible. However, I have a mandatory reporting responsibility under TCU policy and federal law and I am required to share any information I receive regarding sexual harassment, discrimination, and related conduct with TCU’s Title IX Coordinator. Students can receive confidential support and academic advocacy by contacting [TCU’s Confidential Advocate in the Campus Advocacy, Resources & Education office](#) at <https://care.tcu.edu/> or by calling (817) 257-5225 or the [Counseling & Mental Health Center](#) at <https://counseling.tcu.edu/> or by calling (817) 257-7863. [Alleged violations can be reported to the Title IX Office](#) at <https://titleix.tcu.edu/student-toolkit/> or by calling (817) 257-8228. Should you wish to make a confidential report, the Title IX Office will seek to maintain your privacy to the greatest extent possible, but cannot guarantee confidentiality. Reports to law enforcement can be made to the Fort Worth Police Department at 911 for an emergency and (817) 335-4222 for non-emergency or TCU Police at (817) 257-7777.

### **Student Access and Accommodation**

Texas Christian University affords students with disabilities reasonable accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. To be eligible for disability-related academic accommodations, students are required to register with the TCU Office of Student

Access and Accommodation and have their requested accommodations evaluated. Students are required to provide instructors an official TCU notification of accommodation approved through Student Access and Accommodation. More information on how to apply for accommodations can be found at <https://www.tcu.edu/access-accommodation/> or by calling Student Access and Accommodation at (817) 257-6567. Accommodations are not retroactive and require advance notice to implement.

### **Other information to support TCU students**

There is a document available on the course's D2L site called "20093 syllabus appendix" with sections called "Campus Life and the Student Experience will Be Different This Year," "Health and Wellness," "Face Coverings and Physical Distancing," "Statement on TCU's Discrimination Policy," "Obligations to Report Conduct Raising Title IX or VAWA Issues," and "Emergency Response Information," as well as a more extensive statement about academic misconduct. Please let me know if you have any trouble finding this document or any questions about its contents.

### **Course Schedule**

This calendar represents my current plans and objectives. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunities. Such changes will be clearly communicated.

- 17-Aug *Welcome*  
No assigned reading
- 19-Aug *What is political science?*  
No assigned reading
- 19 & 21 Aug **Lab #1: Introduction to political science and SPSS**  
Workbook, pp 1-17 ("Getting Started" and "Chapter 1: Introduction to SPSS")  
Watch "Getting into VPN and SPSS" video and "Lab 1 Video" and take quiz
- 24-Aug *Definition and measurement of concepts*  
Textbook, pp. 1-27 (Chapter 1)
- 26-Aug *Describing variables*  
Textbook, pp. 34-66 (Chapter 2)
- 26 & 28 Aug **Lab #2: Descriptive Statistics**  
Workbook, pp. 21-37 ("Chapter 2: Descriptive Statistics")  
Watch "Lab 2 Video" and take quiz
- 31-Aug *Theories and explanations*  
Textbook, pp. 72-80 (Chapter 3 through "Causal Mechanisms" heading)

- 2-Sep *Causal mechanisms and hypotheses*  
Textbook, pp. 80-85 (Chapter 3 through “Making Comparisons” heading)
- 2 & 4 **Lab 3: Transforming Variables**  
Sep Workbook, pp. 45-65 (Chapter 3)  
Watch “Lab 3 Video” and take quiz
- 7-Sep *Comparing means and comparing proportions*  
Textbook, pp. 85-98 (Finish Chapter 3)
- 9-Sep *Experiments, causation, and internal validity*  
Textbook, pp. 105-114 (Chapter 4 through “Selecting Cases for Analysis” heading)
- 9 & 11 **Lab 4: Making Comparisons**  
Sep Workbook, pp. 71-85 (Chapter 4)  
Watch “Lab 4 Video” and take quiz
- 14-Sep *Case selection*  
Textbook, pp. 115-123 (Chapter 4 through “Conducting Research Ethically” heading)
- 16-Sep *Ethics in research*  
Textbook, pp. 123-127 (Finish Chapter 4)
- 16 & 18 *Lab: Exam review*  
Sep No assigned reading
- 21-Sep *What we now know*  
No assigned reading
- 23-Sep **First exam**
- 23 & 25 **No lab**  
Sep
- 26-Sep *Comparison and control (NOTE: this is a Saturday)*  
Textbook, pp. 134-161 (Chapter 5)
- 28-Sep **Class is cancelled because of Yom Kippur**
- 30-Sep *Basics of statistical inference, part 1*  
Textbook, pp. 167-177 (Chapter 6 through “Quantifying Standard Errors” heading)
- 30-Sep **Lab 5: Controlled Comparisons**

- & 2-Oct Workbook, pp. 95-114 (Chapter 5)  
Watch “Lab 5 Video” and take quiz
- 5-Oct *Basics of statistical inference, part 2*  
Textbook, pp. 177-195 (Finish Chapter 6)
- 7-Oct *Tests of significance and measures of association*  
Textbook, pp. 199-215 (Chapter 7 through “The Chi-Square Test” heading)
- 7 & 9 **Lab 6: Making Inferences about Sample Means**  
Oct Workbook, pp. 123-139 (Chapter 6)  
Watch “Lab 6 Video” and take quiz
- 12-Oct *It is pronounced “Kai Squared”*  
Textbook, pp. 215-222 (Chapter 7; From “The Chi-Square Test” heading to the “Measures of Association” heading)
- 14-Oct *Measures of association*  
Textbook, pp. 222-234 (Finish Chapter 7)
- 14 & 16 **Lab 7: Chi-square and Measures of Association**  
Oct Workbook, pp. 145-162 (Chapter 7)  
Watch “Lab 7 Video” and take quiz
- 19-Oct *What we now know*  
No assigned reading
- 21-Oct **Second exam**
- 21 & 23 **No lab**  
Oct
- 24-Oct *Correlation (NOTE: this is a Saturday)*  
Textbook, pp. 239-244 (Chapter 8 through “Bivariate Regression” heading)
- 26-Oct *Bivariate regression*  
Textbook, pp. 244-257 (Chapter 8 through “Multiple Regression” heading)
- 28-Oct *Multiple regression*  
Textbook, pp. 257-272 (Finish Chapter 8)
- 28 & 30 **Lab 8: Correlation and Linear Regression**  
Oct Workbook, pp. 169-183 (Chapter 8)  
Watch “Lab 8 Video” and take quiz



- 2-Nov *Bivariate logistic regression*  
Textbook, pp. 279-297 (Chapter 9 through “Logistic Regression with Multiple Independent Variables” heading)
- 4-Nov *Multiple logistic regression*  
Textbook, pp. 297-306 (Finish Chapter 9)
- 4 & 6 **Lab 9: Dummy variables and interaction effects**  
Nov Workbook, pp. 191-206 (Chapter 9)  
Watch “Lab 9 Video” and take quiz
- 9-Nov *Reading contemporary political science research*  
Assigned reading to be announced
- 11-Nov *Thinking through our final lab*  
No assigned reading
- 11 & 13 **Lab 10: Asking our own questions**  
Nov No assigned reading  
Watch “Lab 10 Video” take quiz
- 16-Nov *The politics of data and the need for qualitative research*  
No assigned reading
- 18-Nov *Conclusion*  
No assigned reading
- 18 & 20 *Lab: exam review*  
Nov No assigned reading
- 23-Nov **Final exam available starting at 11:00 am (you will have 24 hours to start the exam and once you start, you will have 2 hours to finish).**