

**Seminar “Quantitative International Relations &
Quantitative Political Science”
Winter Term 2005/2006**

(This course is offered for the University of Potsdam programs as well as the *joint* MA in International Relations of the Humboldt University Berlin, the Free University Berlin, and the University of Potsdam.)

Goals

The purpose of the course is to apply quantitative methods to the analysis of international relations and political science. The course consists of secondary analyses of datasets as well as a quantitative research project of the student's choice.

Logistics

Times: Mondays, 14:00 – 17:00 h; check “course overview” for details and exceptions.

Location: Room 3.01.248

Additional Computer Cluster Periods for Homework & Research:
Mondays, 17:00 – 20:00 h (room 3.01.248).

Course Setup

This course consists of

- one replication exercise,
- presentation of a research design for a quantitative research project,
- presentation of the final results of the project, and a
- term paper which summarizes the research design and the findings.

Prerequisites & Registration

Students are required to have successfully taken (i) an introductory course to international relations or political science and (ii) successfully completed the course “Introduction to Statistical Methods for Political Scientists” or equivalent. At a minimum, students have to be familiar with the equivalent of Wooldridge (2003, chs. 1-9) prior to taking this course. Practical experience with STATA is required but can be easily acquired by reading Kohler & Kreuter (2005) plus practice at the computer cluster.

Registration for the course is exclusively via the Blackboard site of the University of Potsdam:

<http://black.rz.uni-potsdam.de>

(check under courses in “Sozialwissenschaften” and subsequently under “Detlef Sprinz”).

Office Hours

After the seminar and by appointment (see contact details below).

Contact Details

Detlef Sprinz, *Ph.D.*

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Course Webpage

<http://www.uni-potsdam.de/u/sprinz/teaching.html>.

Please check the Blackboard site regularly for announcements, assignments, etc.!

Required Readings (in advance of the course)

Wooldridge, Jeffrey M. 2006. *Introductory Econometrics - A Modern Approach*. third edition. Mason, OH: South-Western.

Required Readings

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce et al. 2003. *The Logic of Political Survival*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Kohler, Ulrich and Frauke Kreuter (2005). *Data Analysis Using Stata*. College Station, TX: Stata Press.

Recommended Literature

Kennedy, Peter. 2003. *A Guide to Econometrics*. 5th ed. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing Ltd.

Check <http://bookbutler.com> to compare prices and vendors.

Useful Links for Using STATA 9

[Resources to help you learn and use Stata](#), UCLA Academic Technology Services, USA. An extensive resource of Stata information, including FAQs, learning modules, a quick-reference guide, annotated output, textbook examples, and more. New users may want to visit the [Stata Starter Kit](#) section of the UCLA site. Don't miss the [Stata Web Books](#) and the [movies](#).

[SSC Archive](#), Boston College, USA. A complete archive of programs exchanged on the Stata listserver and other programs for Stata. All these programs can also be installed directly from within Stata by typing net from <http://fmwww.bc.edu/RePEc/bocode/> at the Stata prompt or use the [ssc](#) command. Site includes full [search](#) capabilities.

[UCLA Stata Portal](#), UCLA Academic Technology Services, USA; A web site that links and searches across Stata sites around the world, and more. This is a place where developers of Stata resources collaborate to create an infrastructure to help their own Stata community while providing a service to Stata users all over the world.

Course Requirements

- Grading: Replication Exercise 20 %
 Presentation Research Design 10%
 Presentation Final Results 30%
 Term Paper 40%
- Course requirements submitted by the due date will be given a bonus of one third of a grade point. Verification is by the timestamp embossed in the e-mail by the (receiving) University of Potsdam server.
- Format: At minimum, leave one inch margins from all four edges of A-4 sheets. Footnotes are strongly discouraged. Papers should start with the first and last name of the author, student identification number, and name of university.
- Submission: Papers are due no later than indicated on the assignment. All submissions are via the course site on Blackboard (format: RTF or OpenOffice) incl. command and data files (if applicable). Students are responsible for checking their submissions for virus problems and for spell-checking the document prior to submission.
- In enforcing this submission policy, the instructors accept delays caused by the University of Potsdam internet facilities. Late submissions are not accepted beyond 10 Feb. 2006 (end of lecture period).

Course Overview

Week	Date	Topic	Required Readings	Assignments
1	17 Oct. 2005	Course Overview		
2	24 Oct. 2005	Regression Diagnostics	http://www.ats.ucla.edu/stat/stata/webbooks/reg/chapter2/statareg2.htm	
3	31 Oct. 2005	<i>Public Holiday</i>		
4	07 Nov. 2005	Selectorate Theory	Bueno de Mesquita et al. (2003). ch. 1-3	
5	14 Nov. 2005, 17-20h!	Institutional Preferences	Review: Wooldridge (2006, chs. 13-14) Bueno de Mesquita et al. (2003) ch. 8	Replicate results from Bueno de Mesquita et al. (2003) ch. 8 (<i>deadline: 23 Nov. 2005, 16h</i>)
6	21 Nov. 2005	Designing Your Research Project	Wooldridge (2006, chs. 19)	
7	28 Nov. 2005	<i>No class sessions, but mandatory individual appointment(s) with instructor regarding your research project</i>		
8	05 Dec. 2005			
9	12 Dec. 2005	Presentation of Research Designs		Two-page Outline (<i>deadline: 08 Dec. 2005, 16h</i>)
	9-27 Jan. 2006	<i>No class sessions, but you are encouraged to book an appointment with your instructor to discuss progress on your research project</i>		
10	30 Jan. 2006	Presentation of Final Results		<i>Term paper due 26 Jan. 2006, 16h</i>