

University of Mannheim
Chair of Political Science II
Professor Dr. Thomas König
Spring Term 2013

Methods of International Relations

Syllabus

1 Course Description

This course introduces undergraduate students to quantitative methods used for research in the field of International Relations. The goal is to equip students with the skills necessary to write a successful BA thesis and to teach how to do so using the statistical package *STATA*. The course emphasizes data management, descriptive statistics, graphical analysis, techniques for dealing with continuous and binary dependent variables, as well as regression diagnostics. A good working knowledge of statistics is a prerequisite for successful participation in the class.

2 Organizational Information

2.1 General Information

The class is taught in five parallel courses. You have been assigned to one of the classes. Changing classes is not permitted without explicit approval by the instructors. The content is identical. You will be awarded 4 ECTS credits for regular attendance, participation, and successful completion of the weekly assignments.

2.2 Dates and Instructors

Instructor: Patrick Bayer
Time: Monday, 10:15-11:45h
Room: 309 (in D7, 27)
Mail: pbayer@mail.uni-mannheim.de
Office hours: By appointment only

Instructor: Dirk Junge
Time: Monday, 13:45-15:15h
Room: P 109 (in Parkring 47)
Mail: dirk.junge@uni-mannheim.de
Office hours: By appointment only

Instructor: Sebastian Köhler
Time: Thursday, 12:00-13:30h
Room: A 350 (in A5, 6)
Mail: s.koehler@uni-mannheim.de
Office hours: Thursday, 15:30-17:00h

Instructor: Anika Buchmann
Time: Thursday, 13:45-15:15h
Room: A 351 (in A5, 6)
Mail: anika.buchmann@uni-mannheim.de
Office hours: By appointment only

Instructor: Moritz Marbach
Time: Friday, 10:15-11:45h
Room: A 350 (in A5, 6)
Mail: mmarbach@uni-mannheim.de
Office hours: By appointment only

2.3 Course Requirements

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory. In case of sickness (or other compelling reasons for non-attendance) we expect you to notify us at the latest one hour *before* the class starts. Please note that missing a class without notice may lead to exclusion from the course.

Problem Sets: Each week's session comes with a problem set, which has to be handed in *before* the class specified on the given assignment; problem sets are to be submitted as *printed copies*. Problem sets placed in mailboxes, or sent via email will not be accepted at any time unless arranged with the instructor. Note that you can work in groups of up to three students. However, each student has to hand in his/her own version. Please make sure to give notice of collaboration with other students. Assignments will be graded and returned to students the following week during class.

Grades: The grade is based on the assignments. Active participation in class can help to improve the final grade.

2.4 Basic Readings

Brambor, Thomas, William Roberts Clark, and Matt Golder. 2006. *Understanding Interaction Models: Improving Empirical Analyses*. *Political Analysis* 14: 63-82.

Clarke, Kevin A. 2001. *Testing Nonnested Models of International Relations: Reevaluating Realism*. *American Journal of Political Science* 45(3): 724-744.

Fox, John. 2008. *Applied Regression Analysis and Generalized Linear Models*. SAGE Publications. 2. Edition.

Huth, Paul K., Sarah E. Croco, and Benjamin J. Appel. 2013. *Bringing Law to the Table: Legal Claims, Focal Points, and the Settlement of Territorial Disputes Since 1945*. *American Journal of Political Science* 57(1): 90-103.

Kohler, Ulrich, and Frauke Kreuter. 2009. *Data Analysis Using Stata*. College Station: Stata Press. 2. Edition.

Kono, Daniel. 2006. *Optimal Obfuscation: Democracy and Trade Policy Transparency*. *American Political Science Review* 100(3): 369-384.

Long, J. Scott. 2009. *The Workflow of Data Analysis*. College Station: Stata Press.

Long, J. Scott and Jeremy Freese. 2006. *Regression Models for Categorical Dependent Variables Using STATA*. College Station: STATA Press. 2. Edition.

Nagler, Jonathan. 1995. *Coding Style and Good Computing Practices*. *The Political Methodologist* 6(2): 2-8.

Pollok, Philip H. 2010. *A Stata Companion to Political Analysis*. CQ Press. 2. Edition.

Pollok, Philip H. 2011. *The Essentials of Political Analysis*. CQ Press. 4. Edition.

Wooldridge, Jeffrey M. 2006. *Introductory Econometrics: A Modern Approach*. Mason, OH: Thomson/South-Western. 4. Edition.

2.5 Course Materials

Laptop If you have your own laptop, please bring it to class, as we will work with the computer frequently. An advantage of this approach is that you can set up your own computer and learn how to use it for empirical analysis.

STATA *STATA* is a software for statistical computing and data analysis. We will make use of *STATA* extensively in our class. The University of Mannheim provides home licenses for students free of charge.

3 Topics

Week 1 - Introductory Session

Week 2 - Introduction to STATA

* Kohler & Kreuter 2009. Chs. 3, 10

* Nagler 1995.

Pollok 2010. Chs. 1, 11

Long 2009. Chs. 2, 6 and Appendix A

Week 3 - Merging Data

* Kohler & Kreuter 2009. Chs. 2, 10

Long 2009. Chs. 3, 5, 6

Week 4 - Creating and Recoding Variables

* Kohler & Kreuter 2009. Chs. 5

Long 2009. Chs. 5, 6

Pollok 2010. Chs 3

Week 5 - Descriptive Statistics and Graphic Displays

* Kohler & Kreuter 2009. Chs. 6, 7

Pollok 2010. Chs. 2, 4, 5

Week 6 - Linear Regression I

* Kohler & Kreuter 2009. Chs. 8.1 - 8.2

* Kono 2006.

Pollok 2011. Chs. 7, 8

Pollok 2010. Chs. 8

Easter Break

Week 7 - Linear Regression II

* Kono 2006.

* Brambor, Clark and Golder 2006.

Week 8 - Linear Regression III

* Kohler & Kreuter 2009. Chs. 8.3 - 8.6

* Kono 2006.

Wooldridge 2009. Chs. 6.4, 8.1 - 8.3

Fox 2008. Chs. 11 - 13

Week 9 - Limited Dependent Variables I

* Long Freese 2006. Chs. 4.1, 4.2, 4.3

* Huth, Croco and Appel 2013.

Week 10 - Limited Dependent Variables II

* Long & Freese 2006. Chs. 4.4, 4.5, 4.6

Christi Himmelfahrt

Week 11 - Model Comparison

* Clarke 2001.

Week 12 - Final Discussion