

Conflict and Cooperation in International Relations

Syllabus

1 Course description

This seminar supplements the lecture in two ways. Firstly, some important theoretical aspects of international conflict and cooperation are scrutinized further. Secondly, the seminar provides an introduction to empirical work with a strong focus on methodological questions. However, the main focus is on the application of the methods and techniques, not on rigorous mathematical training. The course consists of two parts: An introduction to basic techniques of regression analysis like Ordinary Least Squares (OLS), Probit and Logit estimation as well as an introduction to the statistical programming language R is provided in the first part of the course. In the second part of the course we will analyze existing data sets and replicate published work.

2 Organizational Information

2.1 General Information

Date: 18 February 2010 to 4 June 2010

Time: Thursday, 1.45-3.15pm

Room: A5, 6 B143

ECTS-Points: 2

2.2 Course Requirements

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory. In case of sickness (or other compelling reasons for non-attendance) I expect to receive a notification at the latest one hour *before* the class starts.

Reading Summaries: You are expected to hand in two reading summaries (no longer than two pages). You are free to choose in which weeks to provide the reading summary. Reading summaries have to be handed in *before* the class starts.

Reading summaries are critical assessments of the literature. The following questions should be tackled:

- Which research question does the author address?
- Which answer does the author give to the question?
- How does the author justify his/her answer? (Theoretical arguments, Methods and Data)
- Where are blind spots or critical points in his/her analysis? How could they be addressed?

Grades The grade is a weighted average of participation in class (25 %) and Reading Summaries (75%).

2.3 Basic Readings

Booth, Wayne C., Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. 2008. *The Craft of Research*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 3. edition.

DeGroot, Morris H., and Mark J. Schervish. 2001. *Probability and Statistics*. Addison-Wesley. 3. edition

Wooldridge, Jeffrey M. 2006. *Introductory Econometrics*. Thomson South Western. 3. edition.

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

King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Morton, Rebecca B. 1999. *Methods and Models: A Guide to the Empirical Analysis of Formal Models in Political Science*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

2.4 Course Materials

Laptop If you own a laptop, please bring it to class, because we will work with the computer in every session and it was impossible to book the Computer Lab for every session. Another advantage is that you set up your own computer and learn to work with

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 licences for students for free. Please sign up in the list to obtain a licence. I will distribute the licences in the second week.

L^AT_EX L^AT_EX is a powerful software for typesetting scientific documents. I recommend to familiarize yourself with this program. You should (but don't have to!) consider it as the program of choice for writing your papers. The Windows version of L^AT_EX, called MikT_EX can be downloaded from <http://www.miktex.org>. MAC user's should use a distribution of MACT_EX (<http://www.tug.org/mactex/2009/>). Linux users can install a current version of T_EXLive from the repositories. Documentation can be found at www.ctan.org. If you have questions related to L^AT_EX, ask me!

3 Topics

Week 1: 18 February 2010 - Introductory Session

Week 2: 25 February 2010 - Introduction to STATA

This session will provide an introduction to the STATA which we will use throughout the whole semester. The main purpose is to familiarize you with the program and its GUI. The main focus in this session is on data handling and descriptive statistics.

Literature:

Wooldridge, Jeffrey M. 2006. *Introductory Econometrics*. Thomson South Western. 3. edition. Appendix B: Fundamentals of Probability, p. 728-762.

Kohler, Ulrich, and Frauke Kreuter. 2009. *Data Analysis Using Stata*, College Station: Stata Press. 2. Edition. Chapter 1: 1-25.

Week 3: 04 March 2010 - OLS Topics

In this class we will cover basic topics regarding the practical application of OLS regression using STATA as the program of choice for statistical programming and graphics generation.

Literature:

Wooldridge, Jeffrey M. 2006. *Introductory Econometrics*. Thomson South Western. 3. edition. chapters 2+3, p. 23-122.

Week 4: 11 March 2010 - OLS Inference and Hypothesis Testing

In this class we will see how one can use OLS methods for statistical inference.

Literature:

Wooldridge, Jeffrey M. 2006. *Introductory Econometrics*. Thomson South Western. 3. edition. Chapter 4, p. 123-175.

Wooldridge, Jeffrey M. 2006. *Introductory Econometrics*. Thomson South Western. 3. edition. Appendix C.6, p. 788-807.

Week 5: 18 March 2010 - Dummies and Interaction Effects

In this class we will cover elementary extensions of the OLS model namely interaction effects and binary independent variables (dummy variables).

Literature:

Wooldridge, Jeffrey M. 2006. *Introductory Econometrics*. Thomson South Western. 3. edition. Chapter 6, p. 204-208.

Wooldridge, Jeffrey M. 2006. *Introductory Econometrics*. Thomson South Western. 3. edition. Chapter 7, p. 230-270.

Week 6: 25 March 2010 - Probit and Logit models

In this class we will cover an important class of statistical models for limited dependent variables: Probit and Logit models.

Literature:

Wooldridge, Jeffrey M. 2006. *Introductory Econometrics*. Thomson South Western. 3. edition. Chapter 17, p. 582-595.

Kohler, Ulrich, and Frauke Kreuter. 2009. *Data Analysis Using Stata*, College Station: Stata Press. 2. Edition. Chapter 9: 249-280.

Easter break

Week 7: 15 April 2010 - IGOs and Democratic Peace

Pevehouse, Jon and Bruce Russett. 2006. *Democratic International Governmental Organizations Promote Peace*. International Organization. 60(4): 969-1000.

Week 8: 22 April 2010 - Datamanagement and Analysis

In this session we are going to work on different data sets.

Literature:

Russett, Bruce. 1997. *The Fact of Democratic Peace*. In: Brown, Michael E., Sean M.

Lynn-Jones, and Steven E. Miller (Ed.). *Debating the Democratic Peace*. 58-81.

Week 9: 29 April 2010 - Democratic Peace

Dixon, William J. 1994. *Democracy and the Peaceful Settlement of International Conflict*. *American Political Science Review*. 88(1): 14-32.

Week 10: 06 May 2010 - Democratic Peace II

Peceny, Mark et al.. 2002. *Dictatorial Peace?* *American Political Science Review*. 96(1): 15-26.

Week 11: 13 May 2010 - Christi Himmelfahrt

Holiday - No class.

Week 12: 20 May 2010 - The Rules of War

Harff, Barbara. 2003. *No Lessons Learned from the Holocaust? Assessing Risks of Genocide and Political Mass Murder since 1955*. *American Political Science Review* 97(1): 57-73.

Week 13: 27 May 2010 - Alliances

Leeds, Brett Ashley. 2003. *Do Alliances Deter Aggression? The Influence of Military Alliances on the Initiation of Militarized Interstate Disputes*. *American Journal of Political Science* 47(3): 427-439.

Week 14: 03 June 2010 - Fronleichnam

Holiday - No class.