

CONF 811, Research Methods I, Fall 2006
Lecture 1, 4:30-7:15 M, Arlington: Truland Building 666B

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Subject Matter and Objectives: Conflict 811 is a Ph.D. level course in quantitative reasoning, covering the workhorse models of statistical social science. It is intended as a complement to the qualitative course Conflict 812. We will cover the widest possible array of statistical tools available in top journals, but from a perspective of learning to read and understand the models as opposed to implementing them with software. The goal of the class is not to produce tool makers or even tool users, but instead research architects who understand what tools are useful for what purposes. Each class session will explore one major approach to statistical modeling, drawing on examples of the technique in the literature. Not all techniques can be covered in any single semester class and many interesting areas will be largely ignored. We will however, become familiar with the most important of the statistical tools in the social science workplace and you should find no journal alienating if the class is successful. We will focus on interpretation of models with attention to essential details; this will involve some mathematical instruction. Even so, we will not deal in mathematical abstractions, but instead with the conceptual structures in the models and the kinds of output that define results and which therefore appear in published tables.

Prerequisites: CONF 801, 810 and acceptance in the doctoral program or permission of instructor

Texts: All reading material will be made available online. Each week we will have several exemplary articles to read that demonstrate the use of a technique in the current literature. These articles will not be classic examples, but rather current ones and will be useful as examples of what you might encounter in the most unforgiving of research contexts—the professional journal. I will provide the class with two or three examples and a group three to four class members will choose one additional article for the class to review. Groups should make their selections known to the instructor by Thursday prior to class so that the articles/chapters can be made available to the rest of the class.

Advice: Use e-mail, office hours, and telephone, as well as lectures and labs, to get help when you need it. (Or to offer advice to me when you think I need it.)

Lectures: Lectures will focus on basic concepts and their application. Most of the material will be general and conceptual and will not involve more mathematics than is absolutely necessary for fundamental understanding of the material.

Proposals: The core work of the class will be a set of three research proposals drawn from your own research or from topics that are of interest to you. These will demonstrate how one would implement a research project that utilizes a particular statistical model in an area of personal interest to you. We will focus on the reasons for using any given technique for your particular project and problems that you might encounter in implementation. These three proposals will be due throughout the semester (Monday of week 6, week 10, and week 15) and will be graded with specific feedback intended to help you to actually conduct this research in the future if you choose to do so. At the end of the class, you should have three research ideas that are tailored to your own research objectives. More specific instructions will be distributed for each proposal later in the term.

Groups: Each person should join a small group of three to four people. The groups will be important in three ways: 1) as places to discuss a weeks readings; 2) to choose a reading for the weeks for which the group is responsible to present the material; 3) to present material for selected weeks. Group members should share information with one another for these and perhaps other purposes.

Grading: Each proposal will count for 30% of your final grade with the remainder dedicated to participation in class conversation. Much of this participation will arise from leading discussions on particular topics, but will also arise from casual interaction.

Topics and Readings

1 Introduction and Review of Statistical Concepts

2 Regression and ANOVA

Framing and Deliberation: How Citizens' Conversations Limit Elite Influence
James N. Druckman; Kjersten R. Nelson
American Journal of Political Science. Vol. 47, No. 4 (Oct., 2003), pp. 729-745

Reactive Devaluation of an "Israeli" vs. "Palestinian" Peace Proposal
Ifat Maoz; Andrew Ward; Michael Katz; Lee Ross
The Journal of Conflict Resolution. Vol. 46, No. 4 (Aug., 2002), pp. 515-546

The Changing Color of Welfare? How Whites' Attitudes toward Latinos Influence Support for Welfare
Cybelle Fox.
The American Journal of Sociology. Chicago: Nov 2004. Vol.110, Iss. 3; pg. 580

3 Logit and Probit

Why Democracies May Actually Be Less Reliable Allies
Erik Gartzke; Kristian Skrede Gleditsch
American Journal of Political Science. Vol. 48, No. 4 (Oct., 2004), pp. 775-795

Who Are Feminists and What Do They Believe? The Role of Generations
Jason Schnittker; Jeremy Freese; Brian Powell
American Sociological Review. Vol. 68, No. 4 (Aug., 2003), pp. 607-622

The Classical Liberals Were Half Right (or Half Wrong): New Tests of the 'Liberal Peace', 1960-88
Hyung Min Kim, David L Rousseau.
Journal of Peace Research. Oslo: Sep 2005. Vol.42, Iss. 5

4 Multinomial and Ordinal Logit

Domestic Political Accountability and the Escalation and Settlement of International Disputes
Paul K. Huth; Todd L. Allee
The Journal of Conflict Resolution. Vol. 46, No. 6 (Dec., 2002), pp. 754-790

War Casualties, Policy Positions, and the Fate of Legislators
Scott Sigmund Gartner, Gary M Segura, Bethany A Barratt.
Political Research Quarterly. Salt Lake City: Sep 2004. Vol.57, Iss. 3

5 Factor Analysis

Are Patriots Bigots? An Inquiry into the Vices of In-Group Pride

Rui J. P. de Figueiredo, Jr.; Zachary Elkins

American Journal of Political Science. Vol. 47, No. 1 (Jan., 2003), pp. 171-188

The Effects of Science on National Economic Development, 1970 to 1990

Evan Schofer; Francisco O. Ramirez; John W. Meyer

American Sociological Review. Vol. 65, No. 6 (Dec., 2000), pp. 866-887

Values, identities and social constructions of the European Union among Turkish university youth

Nuran Hortacsu, Nevra Cem-Ersoy.

European Journal of Social Psychology. Chichester: Jan/Feb 2005. Vol.35, Iss. 1; pg. 107

6 Multi-Dimensional Scaling *(Proposal 1 Due)*

What Is and What Ought to Be: Popular Beliefs about Distributive Justice in Thirteen Countries

Gordon Marshall; Adam Swift; David Routh; Carole Burgoyne

European Sociological Review. Vol. 15, No. 4 (Dec., 1999), pp. 349-367

Changing coalitions in social policy reforms: the politics of new social needs and demands
Silja Hausermann.

Journal of European Social Policy. London: Feb 2006. Vol.16, Iss. 1; pg. 5

7 Latent Class Analysis

Should substance use disorders be considered as categorical or dimensional?

Bengt Muthén.

Addiction. Abingdon: Sep 2006. Vol.101, Iss. s1; pg. 6

The Status of Cultural Omnivorism: A Case Study of Reading in Russia

Jane Zavisca.

Social Forces. Chapel Hill: Dec 2005. Vol.84, Iss. 2; pg. 1233,

8 Structural Equation Models

Political Sophistication and Policy Reasoning: A Reconsideration

Paul Goren

American Journal of Political Science. Vol. 48, No. 3 (Jul., 2004), pp. 462-478

An assessment of the construct validity of Ryff's Scales of Psychological Well-Being: Method, mode, and measurement effects

Kristen W. Springer, Robert M. Hauser
Social Science Research. 2006

9 Event History Models

When Doves Cry: International Rivalry, Unreciprocated Cooperation, and Leadership Turnover
Michael Colaresi

American Journal of Political Science. Vol. 48, No. 3 (Jul., 2004), pp. 555-570

"Out of the parlors and into the streets": The changing tactic repertoire of the U.S. women's suffrage movements

Holly J McCammon.

Social Forces. Chapel Hill: Mar 2003. Vol. 81, Iss. 3; p. 787

Border Crossing: Bricolage and the Erosion of Categorical Boundaries in French Gastronomy

Hayagreeva Rao, Philippe Monin, Rodolphe Durand.

American Sociological Review. Albany: Dec 2005. Vol. 70, Iss. 6; pg. 968

10 Hierarchical Linear Models (HLM)

(Proposal 2 Due)

Nations of Joiners: Explaining Voluntary Association Membership in Democratic Societies

James E. Curtis; Douglas E. Baer; Edward G. Grabb

American Sociological Review. Vol. 66, No. 6 (Dec., 2001), pp. 783-805

Individuals, Jobs, and Labor Markets: The Devaluation of Women's Work

Philip N. Cohen; Matt L. Huffman

American Sociological Review. Vol. 68, No. 3 (Jun., 2003), pp. 443-463

11 Models for Counts (Poisson and Negative Binomial Models)

Economic Segregation, Race, and Homicide

David Eitle, Stewart J D'Alessio, Lisa Stolzenberg.

Social Science Quarterly. Austin: Sep 2006. Vol. 87, Iss. 3; pg. 638

The Legacy of Lynching and Southern Homicide

Steven F Messner, Robert D Baller, Matthew P Zevenbergen.

American Sociological Review. Albany: Aug 2005. Vol. 70, Iss. 4

12 Zero-Inflated Models

Ideologies of Violence: The Social Origins of Islamist and Leftist Transnational Terrorism
Kristopher K Robison, Edward M Crenshaw, J Craig Jenkins.
Social Forces. Chapel Hill: Jun 2006.Vol.84, Iss. 4; pg. 2009

Ideology, Social Threat, and the Death Sentence: Capital Sentences across Time and Space
David Jacobs, Jason T Carmichael.
Social Forces. Chapel Hill: Sep 2004.Vol.83, Iss. 1; pg. 249

13 Panel Models (Accounting for Time)

Inequality in the World Polity: The Structure of International Organization
Jason Beckfield
American Sociological Review. Vol. 68, No. 3 (Jun., 2003), pp. 401-424

The Worldwide Expansion of Higher Education in the Twentieth Century
Schofer, Evan; Meyer, John W.
American Sociological Review, Volume 70, Number 6, December 2005, pp. 898-920(23)

14 Propensity Score and Matching Methods

Propensity Score Matching Methods for Non-Experimental Causal Studies -
RH Dehejia, S Wahba
Review of Economics and Statistics. 2002 - MIT Press

Matching With Multiple Controls to Estimate Treatment Effects in Observational Studies
Herbert L. Smith
Sociological Methodology. Volume 27 Page 325 - 1997

15 Integrating Approaches – Presentations

(Final Proposal Due)