GOV 51: Data Analysis and Politics

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Office Hours: Wed 12-1 p.m. (in-person)

Thurs 1:30-2:30 p.m. (in-person)

Office Hours Location: CGIS Knafel Café

Section Time: Fr 12-1 p.m.

Course Site: Here

Lecture Hours: T, Th 12-1:15 p.m.

Lecture Room: Sever 103

Office Hours Appt. Sign-up: Here

Section Location: CGIS Knafel K050

Course Description

How can we measure racial discrimination in job hiring? What is the best way to predict election outcomes? What factors drive the onset of civil wars? The goal of this course is to give you the ability to understand, explain, and perform research on the most pressing social and political issues with a special focus on data analysis and causal reasoning. You will be able to read and understand the methodology of most academic articles in the social sciences while also learning the core ideas and tools of data science used across many industries.

Purpose

Section will serve to clarify, review, and reinforce concepts found in the weekly readings and lectures. My role as a teaching fellow (senior course assistant) is to assist students in understanding course materials and gain a broad overview of causal inference and other methodologies. We will also work on building the critical analytical skills necessary for the study and production of political science.

Communication

I encourage you to email me with any questions or concerns. I will generally respond to emails within 24 hours, 7 days a week — though most times I'll answer much more rapidly. Moreover, please do not hesitate to send me an email at any hour of the day. I will not harbor any judgment if you email me very late at night (or in the morning). I'm a student, too, so I understand that we often work very late hours! ☺

Attendance

Section attendance is mandatory for this course. You are permitted one unexcused absence. Please contact me if there are extenuating circumstances. While participation is not required, section works best when students come prepared having read the weekly assignments. If you know you are going to miss section, but would like to attend an alternate section, you must email Jeremiah Cha (jeremiahcha@g.harvard.edu) and myself **at least one day prior to the section (with exception to last-minute medical/personal emergencies)** and get permission from both prior to the start of both sections.

Office Hours

I will offer two office hours: one on Wednesdays (12:00 P.M. to 1:00 P.M.) and another on Thursdays (1:30 P.M. to 2:30 P.M.). Both will occur in the CGIS Knafel Café (Fisher Family Commons Area), though I will also offer a Zoom option. Please only sign up for a Zoom option if you cannot attend in-person, since it is often much easier to diagnose coding issues in-person rather than over a shared screen. My office hours will proceed as follows: for the first 20 minutes, I will hold open office hours during which anyone can attend; for the remaining 40 minutes, I will hold one-on-one office hours, which you can book using the link in the heading of this syllabus. If there are no appointments booked for any period of time during my scheduled office hours, I will default to an open office hours style.