

Research Methods

Code: 101102
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2500259 Political Science and Public Management.	OB	3	1

Contact

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Use of Languages

Principal working language: catalan (cat)
Some groups entirely in English: No
Some groups entirely in Catalan: Yes
Some groups entirely in Spanish: Yes

Prerequisites

Students should have acquired basic concepts of research methods. It is highly advisable that they have completed the compulsory course of Methodology of Political Analysis. They must be able read English and work with spreadsheets (Excel) and statistical software (PSPP, jamovi).

Objectives and Contextualisation

The aim of this course is that students familiarize with the main social science research techniques and learn how to use them. The main bivariate and multivariate quantitative techniques will be examined. The bulk of the course is devoted to linear regression analysis and its extensions. We will prioritize practical training and the interpretation and presentation of results over mathematical issues. At the same time, students gain proficiency in the use of statistical software.

Competences

- Applying the different behaviour analysis techniques and political actors to real cases from the internal and international political arena.
- Applying the discipline's main theories and different fields to real practical and professional problems.
- Arguing from different theoretical perspectives.
- Demonstrating good writing skills in different contexts.
- Demonstrating the comprehension of the logic behind the scientific analysis of political sciences.
- Designing data collection techniques, coordinating the information processing and meticulously applying hypothesis verification methods.
- Managing the available time in order to accomplish the established objectives and fulfil the intended task.
- Managing the methodological foundations of politic sciences.
- Realising effective oral presentations that are suited to the audience.
- Showing a good capacity for transmitting information, distinguishing key messages for their different recipients.
- Synthesizing and critically analysing information.
- Using the main information and documentation techniques (ICT) as an essential tool for the analysis.
- Working autonomously.
- Working by using quantitative and qualitative analysis techniques in order to apply them to research processes.

Learning Outcomes

1. Arguing from different theoretical perspectives.
2. Critically assessing the usage of inductive, deductive and comparative methods.
3. Critically assessing the use of analytical instruments to validate the hypothesis raised.
4. Demonstrating good writing skills in different contexts.
5. Demonstrating the comprehension of the logic behind the scientific analysis of political sciences.
6. Designing and planning an investigation in the field of political sciences.
7. Designing data collection techniques, coordinating the information processing and meticulously applying hypothesis verification methods.
8. Managing the available time in order to accomplish the established objectives and fulfil the intended task.
9. Managing the methodological foundations of politic sciences.
10. Realising effective oral presentations that are suited to the audience.
11. Showing a good capacity for transmitting information, distinguishing key messages for their different recipients.
12. Synthesizing and critically analysing information.
13. Using a database of political data using in each case specific basic techniques of descriptive statistics.
14. Using the main information and documentation techniques (ICT) as an essential tool for the analysis.
15. Working autonomously.
16. Working by using quantitative and qualitative analysis techniques in order to apply them to research processes.

Content

1. Review of basic concepts
2. Correlation and bivariate regression
3. The logic of statistical control
4. Multiple regression
5. Categorical independent variables
6. Interactions
7. Regression models for categorical dependent variables

Methodology

There are two types of sessions:

1. Lectures, which may include in-class exercises.
2. Lab sessions, with assignments to be handed in at the end of the session.

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Computer lab sessions	22	0.88	1, 5, 4, 6, 7, 10, 8, 11, 12, 16, 15, 9, 14, 13, 3, 2
Lectures and in-class exercises	30	1.2	1, 5, 4, 6, 7, 10, 8, 11, 12, 16, 15, 9, 14, 13, 3, 2

Type: Supervised			
Tutorials	15	0.6	1, 5, 4, 6, 7, 10, 8, 11, 12, 16, 15, 9, 14, 13, 3, 2
Type: Autonomous			
Assignments	25	1	1, 5, 4, 6, 7, 10, 8, 11, 12, 16, 15, 9, 14, 13, 3, 2
Reading	25	1	1, 5, 4, 6, 7, 10, 8, 11, 12, 16, 15, 9, 14, 13, 3, 2
Study	25	1	1, 5, 4, 6, 7, 10, 8, 11, 12, 16, 15, 9, 14, 13, 3, 2

Assessment

Lab assignments and in-class exercises (45%). Grades will be based on attendance and performance. No late submissions will be accepted. To pass a group assignment or exercise, you must have attended the corresponding session. In order to pass the course, you must have handed in at least two thirds of the assignments and exercises. This part of the evaluation is not recoverable.

Midterm (15%) and final (40%) exams. In order to pass the course, a minimum grade of 4/10 in the final exam is required.

Retake process

To be eligible to participate in the retake process, it is required that the following conditions are both met:

1. Passing the assignment and exercise part of the course.
2. Having a grade of 3/10 or above in the final exam.

Passing the retake evaluation gets you a maximum global grade of 5/10.

Important considerations

The fact of taking an exam or handing in an assignment or exercise exempts the student from the grade "Not assessable".

In accordance with article 117.2 of the UAB Academic Regulation, the evaluation of those students who have been enrolled before may consist of a single synthesis examination. The students who wish to be evaluated this way should contact the professor at the beginning of the semester (first week of October at the latest).

Evidence of plagiarism involves failing the corresponding evaluation with a grade of 0/10.

Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Final exam	40%	2	0.08	1, 5, 4, 6, 7, 10, 8, 11, 12, 16, 15, 9, 14, 13, 3, 2
Lab assignments and in-class exercises	45%	4	0.16	1, 5, 4, 6, 7, 10, 8, 11, 12, 16, 15, 9, 14, 13, 3, 2
Midterm exam	15%	2	0.08	1, 5, 4, 6, 7, 10, 8, 11, 12, 16, 15, 9, 14, 13, 3, 2

Bibliography

Kellstedt, Paul M., & Guy D. Whitten. 2009. *The Fundamentals of Political Science Research*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

This book can be accessed on the campus network (

<http://site.ebrary.com/lib/bibliotequesuab/docDetail.action?docID=10275338>) or online via the UAB XPV service (https://xpv.uab.cat/dana-na/auth/url_default/welcome.cgi).

Pollock, P. H. 2016. *The Essentials of Political Analysis*, 5th ed. Washington, DC: CQ Press.

Riba, Clara, & Anna Cuxart. 2013. *Regresión lineal aplicada*. Barcelona: Documenta Universitaria.