***GOV 2001: Quantitative Social Science Methods I***

***Section Syllabus for Fall 2022***

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| **Section Time and Location** | **Teaching Fellow** | **Drop-In Office Hour Time and Location** | **1:1 Office Hour Time and Location** *(links below)* |
| Wednesday, 1:30-2:30pm  CGIS K050 | Uma Ilavarasan  [uilavarasan@g.harvard.edu](mailto:uilavarasan@g.harvard.edu) | Wednesday, 2:30-4:00pm  CGIS K105 | Friday, 4:00-5:00pm  Zoom or CGIS Café |
| Thursday, 3:30-4:30pm  CGIS K031 | Aleksandra Conevska  [aleksandraconevska@g.harvard.edu](mailto:aleksandraconevska@g.harvard.edu) | Thursday, 4:30-6:00pm  CGIS K105 | Thursday, 10:00-11:00am  Zoom or K452 |
| Wednesday, 6:00-7:00pm  Zoom (*DCE ONLY)* |

**TF Contact Policies:**

We are looking forward to teaching (and learning with!) you. If you have any questions or concerns to share with us that we cannot address or have not addressed through (1) in-class interactions, (2) Perusall comments, (3) section, (4) drop-in office hours, or (5) 1:1 office hours, you can contact us *through Perusall* or our emails, listed above.

* We will respond within 24 hours Monday through Friday, and by Sunday evening if you contact us after 3pm on Friday.
* Please keep questions relatively brief and concise; for longer or more conceptual queries, use one of the five options listed above.
* If you send us an email after 6pm, please do not expect a response that evening.

**Purposes of Section and Office Hours:**

*As a methodologist, you are a translator*: you move between the relationships and concepts that define your chosen subset of political science, and the models that best represent them. Ultimately, the methods sequence should provide you with quantitative fluency, or the ability to *understand* and *describe* “politics” in mathematical terms and *converse* about politics in that language. In this course, we try to introduce you to its basic structure and most useful “verbs.” Section is a key component of this process, where we will:

1. *Review* the structural and active components of the material covered in the video and in-class lectures, and readings (like probability distributions and likelihood inference).
2. *Practice writing* in the alphabet used to articulate these components (formulas and R).

If section is an opportunity to engage with the principles underlying this language and to think about their implementation, problem sets are where you “converse.” You can come to office hours to ask questions about any component of the course, and to work through these “conversational exercises”:

1. *Drop-in office hours* are unstructured blocks of time for question-asking; you can come either alone or with a group of fellow students.
2. *1:1 office hours* must be booked using the Calendly links below; you will receive a 15-minute time slot to review specific questions of your choosing. While these will take place in CGIS Café, we can accommodate Zoom requests if necessary. You can book with the intention of coming alone, or with (a subset of) your problem set group.

**Section Policies:**

Attending and actively participating in section will prepare you for success on your problem sets, and for deeper and more persistent comprehension of course material. With that in mind, these are our expectations and policies.

1. *Participation:* It is okay and even preferable to make mistakes — fumbling through a problem is a memorable experience! We do not expect or want you to answer the questions we ask perfectly. However, we *do* expect you to participate. If we find that questions in section are disproportionately answered by a few students with minimal engagement from others, *we will “cold-call” students using a random number generator* (the sample() function in R!).
2. *Technology:* While you will often need your laptop to complete in-section R exercises, we ask that you keep it closed otherwise. Taking notes by hand seems to improve material retention, and there are spillover costs associated with doing other work or entertaining yourself through YouTube, TikTok, or texts during class: you’ll distract your classmates.

**Assignment Policies:**

* *Video lectures, reading and Perusall comments*: watch, read, comment, and respond to comments on videos before Monday’s class lecture.
* *Problem sets:* generally, released at 5:00pm on Monday and due Saturday of that week at 11:59pm. Extensions will *not* be granted, except for medical reasons.
* *Peer review:* assigned by 7:00pm on Sunday and due the following Tuesday at 11:59pm. Extensions will *not* be granted, except for medical reasons.
* *Replication paper:* see the timeline under the “Logistics” tab on the course website. Extensions will *not* be granted.

**Helpful Links:**

* [GOV2001 Course Homepage](https://calendly.com/umailava/officehours)
* [GOV2001 Course Canvas page](https://canvas.harvard.edu/courses/74841)
* [GOV2001 Perusall page](https://app.perusall.com/courses/gov-2001-quantitative-social-science-methods-i-195468570/_/dashboard/assignments/ytvJo4anansNu68NT)
* Resources
  + [R for Data Science](https://r4ds.had.co.nz/)
  + [Introduction to Probability, 2nd Edition](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VmkAAGOYCTORq1wxSQqy255qLJjTNvBI/view)
* 1:1 office hour booking links
  + Uma: <https://calendly.com/umailava/officehours>
  + Aleksandra: <https://calendly.com/aleksandraconevska/office-hours>