

POLS 390 – Political Inquiry and Analysis (Online)
Spring 2014 (15 Weeks, Feb 03 – May 16, 2014)

Instructor: Sreang HEAK, PhD
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Course Website: <https://laulima.hawaii.edu/portal>
Office hours (online): Anytime per email or via Skype by appointment

Online

This online course is both similar and different from face-to-face course. Difference is that students can work on it at their convenient time and location. Similarity is that students still have to do the reading and actively participate in the course. If there is no active participation in the course, students may not pass this class.

1. Course Description:

- a. The main objective of the course is to equip students with knowledge and practical experience on how to
 - i. Ask political questions
 - ii. Analyze political questions
 - iii. Answer political questions
- b. This is an introductory course in political inquiry and analysis method used in social science research, policy analysis and behavioral research analysis.
- c. The course will cover the following topics:
 - i. Research method such as identifying problem, formulating hypothesis, conducting pilot study, collecting data, testing hypothesis, generalizing results, and replicating experiment
 - ii. Basic approach to scientific research such as correlation approach, case history approach, field study approach, experimental approach, quasi-experimental research
 - iii. Method of describing data such as samples and populations, graphical methods of description, univariate descriptive statistics, bivariate descriptive statistics,
 - iv. Simple experimental design such as inferential statistics, statistical hypothesis testing, randomized group designs, non-parametric analysis, testing for statistical significance
 - v. Simple analysis of variance such as single factor analysis of variance, concept of analysis of variance (ANOVA), repeated measure design, Post Hoc Analyses
 - vi. Multifactor analysis of variance such as factor design, nested design, between-group ANOVA design, within-subject ANOVA design, mixed two-factor ANOVA design
 - vii. Planning, conducting and reporting research such as conducting literature review, conducting an experiment, writing research report (introduction, method, results, discussion, abstract, references, tables-figures)

2. Course Materials:

- a. Required text book: Vercruyssen M. & Hendrick H.W. (2012). *Behavioral research and analysis: an introduction to statistics within the context of experimental design*. CRC Press Taylor & Francis Group, an Informa Business
- b. Other reading materials will be assigned as needed on Laulima

3. Required Computer Software (all free downloads)

- a. You may need to install the following software on your PC or you can use the available programs at UH campus lab computers:
 - i. QuickTime for all video in streamed format (<http://www.apple.com/quicktime>)
 - ii. Any modern web browser (eg. Firefox – <http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox>)
 - iii. Adobe Flash Player (eg. <http://www.adobe.com/products/flashplayer>)
 - iv. Real Player (<http://www.real.com/>)
 - v. Blackboard collaborative webinar room
 - vi. Webinars Google Calendar

4. Class Teaching Method:

- a. The teaching methods of the class involve:
 - i. Discussions
 - ii. Quizzes
 - iii. Webinar Presentation (Lecture)
 - iv. Assignment and Group Project (Online interaction)

5. Course Requirements:

- a. Students are required to use spreadsheet for calculation like MS Excel and others.
- b. Reading of class materials is important.
- c. Active interaction in the class discussion is very important.

6. Grading:

- a. There will be quizzes/exercises at the end of each chapter. 70% of the grade will be based on those quizzes/exercises.
- b. There will be one final exam at the end of the course (15% of the grade).
- c. Group project at the end of the course (15% of the grade).

7. Individual with Disabilities:

UH-KOKUA program is available for students with disability at QLCSS as needed.

8. Course Schedule:

DATE	TOPICS TO BE COVERED	Quizzes
Week 1 (2/3-2/7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction to the course• Chapter 1 – Overview of scientific research	

DATE	TOPICS TO BE COVERED	Quizzes
Week 2 (2/10-2/14)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 1 – Overview of scientific research 	Quiz 1 due by 2/7
Week 3 (2/17-2/21)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 2 – Methods of describing data 	
Week 4 (2/24-2/28)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 2 – Methods of describing data 	Quiz 2 due by 2/28
Week 5 (3/3-3/7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 3 – Bivariate descriptive statistics 	
Week 6 (3/10-3/14)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 3 – Bivariate descriptive statistics 	Quiz 3 due by 3/14
Week 7 (3/17-3/21)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 4 – Simple Experimental Design 	
Week 8 (3/24-3/28)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 4 – Simple Experimental Design 	Quiz 4 due by 3/28
Week 9 (3/31-4/4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 5 – Simple analysis of variance 	
Week 10 (4/7-4/11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 5 – Simple analysis of variance 	Quiz 5 due by 4/11
Week 11 (4/14-4/18)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 6 – Multifactor analysis of variance 	
Week 12 (4/21-4/25)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 6 – Multifactor analysis of variance 	Quiz 6 due by 4/25
Week 13 (4/28-5/2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 7 – Planning, conducting, and reporting research 	
Week 14 (5/5-5/9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 7 – Planning, conducting, and reporting research 	Quiz 7 due by 5/9
Week 15 (5/12-5/16)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Exam and Group Project 	Exam and Group Project due by 5/16