

PLS 2033
Research Methods
Section 1
Spring 2009

McNitt
Office: CH 2351
Office Hrs. MTWR 11-12

The Course: This course is an introduction to quantitative and qualitative research methods. It looks at how variables are measured, hypotheses developed, and relationships demonstrated. Students will also learn how to use the scholarly literature in Political Science to write research papers. Topics covered include developing theories and hypotheses, APSA citation style, descriptive statistics, bivariate measures of association, measures of statistical significance and basic regression.

Cell Phones: Cell phones should be turned off during class. All cell phones must be put away during examinations and when examination results are being discussed.

Disabilities: Any student who has a documented disability which requires special accommodation in either class presentation or testing should contact the instructor and/or the coordinator of the Office of Disabilities Services (581-6483) as soon as possible.

E-Mail: My address is admcnitt@eiu.edu. I will gladly answer questions over e-mail, but I do not accept work turned in as attachments.

Texts: Louise White, Political Analysis, 4th Edition
Phillip Pollock, SPSS Companion to Political Analysis, 3rd Edition

Lab: Class will meet in Lumpkin 1011 on Thursdays.

Schedule:

Topic 1	Research Process White Chapter 1	
Topic 2	Research Questions and Hypotheses White Chapter 2	<u>SPSS</u> Getting Started & Chapter 1
Topic 3	Measuring Concepts White Chapter 3 and 10	<u>SPSS</u> Chapter 2 & 3
Topic 4	Research Design White Chapter 4	<u>SPSS</u> Chapter 4
Topic 5	Association and Causation White Chapter 5	<u>SPSS</u> Chapter 5
Topic 6	Theories and Causal Models White Chapter 6	
Topic 7	Data Collection—Survey Data White Chapter 7	<u>SPSS</u> Chapter 6

Topic 8	Data Collection--Qualitative Data White Chapter 8	
Topic 9	Collecting Data—Documentary Data White Chapter 9	
Topic 10	Analyzing Data White pp. 307-334	<u>SPSS</u> Chapter 6
Topic 11	Statistical Significance White Chapter 12	<u>SPSS</u> Chapter 7
Topic 12	Regression White pp. 335-340	<u>SPSS</u> Chapter 8
Topic 13	More Regression and Presentation White Chapter 13	<u>SPSS</u> chapter 9
Topic 14	Designing and Writing a Research Paper White Chapter 14	<u>SPSS</u> Chapter 11

Evaluation:

Seven Problem Sets	90
Midterm	70
Final	<u>70</u>
	230