

## POLS 5020 Research Methods

Fall 2022 ±Tuesdays 4:15-7:00 pm

Professor Matthew Nanes

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Office Hours: Wednesday 1-12 and by appointment

### Course Description and Introduction

This course presents the fundamental tools that social science researchers use to ask and answer questions about the world. While the class is geared towards Political Science MA students, early-stage graduate students in any social science discipline should find it useful and are welcome to enroll. I also welcome undergraduate students who want to dig a bit deeper into the basic toolkit of social science research and are up for a small challenge (really, just a small one!).



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found here <http://www.slu.edu/artsandsciences/studentresources/academicintegrity.php>

### Students with Disabilities

Students who wish to request academic accommodations are encouraged to contact Disability Services to discuss accommodation requests and eligibility requirements. Please visit the Office of Disability Services website (<http://www.slu.edu/life/slu/student-success-center/disability-services>) for details. Please also contact me as soon as possible if you wish to discuss any of these options.

### Books

The two required books for this class are:

- x Ethan Bueno de Mesquita and Anthony Fowler *Thinking Clearly With Data*

- READING

BDM and Fowler, ch. 4 (all)

Lyll 2021, p.2635

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Imai and Bougher, p.223 (merges), 224 (packages), 324 (operators and conditions)

<https://stats.oarc.ucla.edu/stata/modules/collapsing>

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<https://www.coursera.org/lecture/linear-regression-for-business-statistics/transformation-of-variables-in-a-regression-improving-linearity-FOYXk>

- In class:
  - Interactions between variables
  - Plotting interactions
  - Torturing your data (transformations)
- HOMEWORK:

Additionally, each SU College, School, and Center has its own academic integrity policies, available on their respective websites.

#### Disability Accommodations

Students with a documented disability who wish to request academic accommodations must formally register their disability with the University. Once successfully registered, students also must notify their course instructor that they wish to use their appr



- x Students and instructors may remove their masks briefly to take a sip of water but should replace masks immediately. The consumption of food will not be permitted.
- x Students who do not comply with the expectation that they wear a mask in accordance with the University wide face mask requirements may be subject to disciplinary actions per the rules, regulations, and policies of Saint Louis University, including but not limited to those outlined in the *Student Handbook*. Non-compliance with this policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including any of the following:
  - o dismissal from the course(s)
  - o removal from campus housing (if applicable)
  - o dismissal from the University
- x To immediately protect the health and well-being of all students, instructors, and staff, instructors reserve the right to cancel or terminate any class session at which any student fails to comply with a University wide face mask requirement.

When a University-wide face mask requirement is not in effect, students and instructors may choose to wear a face mask or not, as they prefer for their own individual comfort level.

#### ADA Accommodations for Face Mask Requirements

Saint Louis University is committed to maintaining an inclusive and accessible environment for individuals who are unable to wear a face mask due to medical reasons should contact the Office of Disability Services (students) or Human Resources (instructors). Inquiries or concerns may also be directed to the Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity. Notification to instructors of SLU approved ADA accommodations should be made in writing prior to the first class session in any term (or as soon thereafter as possible).

#### Attendance

The health and well-being of our institutional constituencies are our top priority. According to the following University policy statements on in-person class attendance are designed to preserve and advance the collective health and well-being of our institutional constituencies.

1. Students who exhibit any potential COVID symptom (those that cannot be attributed to some other medical condition the students are known to have, such as allergies, asthma, etc.) shall absolve themselves from any in-person class attendance or in-person participation in any class-related activity until they have been evaluated by a qualified medical official. Students should contact the University Student Health Center for immediate assistance.
2. Students who exhibit any potential COVID symptom (those that cannot be attributed to some other medical condition the students are known to have, such as allergies, asthma, etc.) but feel well enough to a) attend the course synchronously in an online class session or b) participate in asynchronous online class activities, are expected to do so. Those who do not feel well enough to do so should absent themselves accordingly.
3. Students (whether exhibiting any of potential COVID symptoms or not, and regardless of how they feel) who are under either an isolation or quarantine directive issued by a qualified health official must absent themselves from all in-person course activity per the stipulations of the isolation or quarantine directive. They are expected to participate in synchronous or asynchronous online class activities as they feel able to do so, or absent themselves

5. As a temporary amendment to the current [University Attendance Policy](#), all absences due to illness or an LVR0DWLRQ TXDUDQWLQH GLUHFWLYH LVVXHG E\ D TXDOLILHG KHDOWK (effective August 2020 through May 2021).

#### 2021-2022 Mandatory Syllabus Statement on In-Person Class Attendance and Participation

The health and well-being of our students is our top priority. The following University policy statements on in-person class attendance are designed to preserve and advance the collective health and safety of our institutional constituencies and to create the conditions in which all students have the opportunity to learn and successfully complete their courses.

1. Students who exhibit any [potential COVID-19 symptoms](#) (those that cannot be attributed to some other medical condition the students are known to have, such as allergies, asthma, etc.) shall absent themselves from any in-person class attendance or in-person participation in any class-related activity until they have been evaluated by a qualified medical official. Students should contact the [University Student Health Center](#) for immediate assistance.
2. Students (whether exhibiting any of potential COVID symptoms or not, and regardless of how they feel) who are under either an isolation or quarantine directive issued by a qualified health official must absent themselves from all in-person course activities per the stipulations of the isolation or quarantine directive.