*Q1.* **UWM Political Science Department
Course/Instructor Evaluations - Graduate Level**

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**Fall 2020; Pol Sci 701-001; Techniques of Political Science Research
Assistant Professor Patrick Kraft**

*Q2.* Are you currently enrolled as a student in the above-listed course?

- ◉ Yes
- ○ No

*Q3.* What did you like most about this seminar? Please be specific.

> I really ended up liking coding by the end of the semester- I never expected to learning coding, much less enjoy it or be good at it.

*Q4.* What did you like least about this seminar? Please be specific.

> I can't tell how much of the issues I had are due to the online format- I think this class (and most other math-based classes) are really difficult to learn online. It felt like I had to teach myself a lot, despite having online Q & A sessions. I ended up being comfortable with the coding aspect, but the statistics portion of the class was much more difficult to learn.

*Q5.* Please evaluate the readings assigned in the seminar. Which did you find most useful and which did you find least useful?

> The textbook was pretty helpful! I enjoyed all of the additional materials Prof. Kraft posted for us, especially the ones that included visuals like "guess the correlation" and "finding OLS coefficients".

*Q6.* In what ways would you change this seminar so as to improve it?

I really think the way to improve this class would be to have it in person because it was really hard to learn asynchronously. Obviously, that wasn't an option this semester, but I think most of the issues people had with understanding the material stemmed from the online format.

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*Q3.* What did you like most about this seminar? Please be specific.

> I really appreciated the difficult situation and that clearly Dr. Kraft cared and was trying to make this work.

*Q4.* What did you like least about this seminar? Please be specific.

> This is difficult to pin-point. On the one hand, I vehemently disagree that political science is a science. I am a theory student. I don't know when/why I would use these techniques in my research. However, that has nothing to do with Dr. Kraft. It is not his fault this department makes theory students take 701 and 702. I only say this because I want to be as fair as possible to Dr. Kraft and not let my frustrations, irrelevant to his job as the instructor, affect this review. On the other hand, the biggest problem with this class is that it moved too quickly. It was really hard to keep up. I work full-time. I also have a second job. I was spending so many hours during the week just on the problem sets that I had little time to really ensure I was covering the material. Perhaps that was just me. Maybe I need to manage my time better. However, other students confided to me they too were having a hard time keeping up. I constantly found myself succeeding in writing the correct code but NOT feeling confident in the concepts. I think this is analogous to getting the right answer for a math problem but not being able to demonstrate the work/process of solving the equation. The consequence of this is that weeks can go by of you thinking you are on the right track, that you're doing well on the assignments, but then something happens and you realize there is a key concept you were wrong to think you understand. The Q&A sessions were helpful but again because of the time consuming nature of the problem sets, I was always too eager and focused on the next problem set. I felt like I could dwell on the previous assignments. If I did, I would fall behind. Feeling unsure builds and builds so much that you don't know how to ask for help. I never knew where to start, let alone worried about embarrassing myself. That was the problem with the final exam. The final exam was a different format from the rest of the class. Specifically, the second part on regressions. Because it was different and the concepts were used in different ways, it exposed that maybe I was just doing well in the class because of an ability to code, not an ability to understand deeply. I would propose that the problem sets be altered to include less coding demands but also include more interpretation/short answer as the first part of the final exam had.

*Q5.* Please evaluate the readings assigned in the seminar. Which did you find most useful and which did you find least useful?

I thought the textbook was extremely helpful and clear. I would hope the use of it never stops.

*Q6.* In what ways would you change this seminar so as to improve it?

See my previous response regarding the problem sets.

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○ No

*Q3.* What did you like most about this seminar? Please be specific.

> Really Good Feedback for Questions! Abundant Materials for Classes and Lecture!

*Q4.* What did you like least about this seminar? Please be specific.

> Somewhat Difficult for Novice!

*Q5.* Please evaluate the readings assigned in the seminar. Which did you find most useful and which did you
find least useful?

> Good for Graduate Students, BUT Need to be Flexible Order for Novice

*Q6.* In what ways would you change this seminar so as to improve it?

1. Time for Review of Problem set - so Practice More and More, Confirm used to Coding through R and package 2. Replication Deeply! - More Time to Review, Replicate, and Practice for Useful, Important Article

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- ○ No

*Q3.* What did you like most about this seminar? Please be specific.

*This question was not displayed to the respondent.*

*Q4.* What did you like least about this seminar? Please be specific.

*This question was not displayed to the respondent.*

*Q5.* Please evaluate the readings assigned in the seminar. Which did you find most useful and which did you
find least useful?

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*Q2.* Are you currently enrolled as a student in the above-listed course?

- ⦿ Yes
- ◯ No

*Q3.* What did you like most about this seminar? Please be specific.

> Learning about hypothesis testing, statistical significance, and probability theory

*Q4.* What did you like least about this seminar? Please be specific.

> The relationship between coding coursework and the statistical/probability concepts being taught (as applied to the social sciences) didn't progress in a way that made retention of the material easy. The latter half of the course that was devoted to learning statistical/probability concepts, their relationship to hypothesis testing/statistical significance in the social sciences, and their subsequent application in R coursework made sense to me. But the first half of the course didn't seem to develop in a way where I felt what I was learning I could actually apply to political science research in a general sense. Hard to pinpoint specifically why this was the case.

*Q5.* Please evaluate the readings assigned in the seminar. Which did you find most useful and which did you find least useful?

> Wasn't a fan of the book assigned for this class. Because the coding coursework was based on the book, I felt the class suffered, as a result.

*Q6.* In what ways would you change this seminar so as to improve it?

Learn about hypothesis testing and probability theory right away

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