

CONF 811 – 001
Quantitative Foundations of Conflict Analysis and Resolution
Fall 2011
Thursday 4:30 pm - 7:10 pm

Instructor: Dr. Solon Simmons
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Conflict 811 is a Ph.D. level course intended to introduce the advanced student to the foundational concepts that underlie quantitative methods of social science research. The topics covered are targeted at the general foundations of this approach to creating knowledge about social processes so that a student has the tools to develop a competent thesis and the general knowledge that will allow her to move on to more specialized topics in quantitative analysis in a tailored doctoral curriculum. In this course we will examine a wide variety of the indispensable ideas of sound research: case analysis, sampling from populations, scaling and measurement of social phenomena, quantitative content of printed texts, design of surveys and the statistical analysis of multivariate data. Mastery of these concepts will help the student to work through any research puzzle and to produce illuminating research that is both convincing and informative. At the end of this class, the student will have mastered the basic concepts of an approach to quantitative analysis, will have familiarity with some of the best texts in the area for future reference, and will have developed practical skills in the use of leading software programs for the implementation of this type of social science research.

Graded Exercises and Related Matters

The main requirements of the class will be three smaller exercises and two larger analyses. The smaller exercises are meant as complements to the larger analyses that will assist the student in building an integrated approach to doing concrete quantitative analysis of conflict.

Grade will be apportioned on the following formula:

Sampling Exercise	10%
Scaling Exercise	10%
Survey Exercise	10%
Quantitative Text Analysis	30%
Multivariate Analysis	30%
Active Preparation of Readings and Participation	10%

Required Readings

Robert K. Yin, Case Study Research: Design and Methods, Third Edition, Applied Social Research Methods Series, Vol 5, 3rd ed. (Sage Publications, Inc, 2002).

Paul S. Levy and Stanley Lemeshow, *Sampling of Populations, Solutions Manual: Methods and Applications*, 4th ed. (Wiley, 2009).

Dr. Robert F. DeVellis, *Scale Development: Theory and Applications*, Third Edition. (Sage Publications, Inc, 2011).

Klaus H. Krippendorff, *Content Analysis: An Introduction to Its Methodology*, 2nd ed. (Sage Publications, Inc, 2003).

Floyd J. Fowler, *Improving Survey Questions: Design and Evaluation*, 1st ed. (Sage Publications, Inc, 1995).

Alan C. Acock, *A gentle introduction to Stata* (Stata Press, 2008).

Class Schedule:

September 1 Introduction

September 8 Case Analysis

Reading: *Case Study Research: Design and Methods*

September 15 Sampling I

Reading: *Sampling Populations*

September 22 Sampling II

Reading: *Sampling Populations*

September 29 Scaling and Measurement I (Sampling Exercise Due)

Reading: *Scale Development: Theory and Applications*

October 6 Scaling and Measurement II

Reading: *Scale Development: Theory and Applications*

October 13 Content Analysis I (Scaling Exercise Due)

Reading: *Content Analysis: An Introduction and Wordstat Instruction Manual*

October 20 Content Analysis II

Reading: *Content Analysis: An Introduction and Wordstat Instruction Manual*

October 27 Content Analysis III

Reading: *Content Analysis: An Introduction and Wordstat Instruction Manual*

November 3 Survey Design I (Quantitative Text Analysis Due)

Reading: *Improving Survey Questions*

November 10 Survey Design II

Reading: *Improving Survey Questions*

November 17 Multivariate Analysis I (Survey Exercise Due)

Reading: *A gentle introduction to Stata*

November 24 Thanksgiving

December 1 Multivariate Analysis II

Reading: *A gentle introduction to Stata*

December 8 Multivariate Analysis III

Reading: *A gentle introduction to Stata*

(Multivariate Analysis Due December 16 by 4:30 PM in Simmons mailbox on 7th Floor of Truland building)