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# Political Science Research Methods



## Synopsis

Don't let an introduction to research methods be your students' least favorite (and most intimidating) political science course. Relevant, timely, insightful, comprehensive, and always mindful of their student audience, the authors have revamped their popular text so that the sixth edition is friendlier and more intuitive than ever: the perfect gateway to understanding not just the how but also the why behind research into politics. Covering the discipline's major methods, the authors lead students step-by-step through the logic of research design. Building block chapters on hypothesis formation and testing, variables, and measurement are right up front; the introduction to research design, sampling, and literature reviews now come with more explanation as to why a researcher would pursue different kinds of methods; the stats chapters begin with a common-sense primer that walks students through foundational ideas and practices. Throughout the text, updated examples of contemporary research problems keep readers engaged. Each chapter has bolded key terms that are also listed in a glossary at the end of each chapter and the end of the text. Helpful hints feature boxes give students nuts-and-bolts reminders they can refer to when they conduct their own research or assess the work of others.

**NEW TO THIS EDITION** New examples of political science research in Chapter 1, including a case on judicial decision making and current research into public opinion on the war in Iraq. Expanded discussion of theory in Chapter 2, showing how competing paradigms can be applied to the same topic of study. Substantially updated discussion of survey research including coverage of Internet polling and a fuller description of interviewing. Computational formulas and calculations are now featured in *How It's Done* boxes allowing students to separate lengthy calculations from substantive discussion of the meaning or interpretation of statistical results. Greater coverage of newer developments in applied statistics, including exploratory data analysis and descriptive and inferential statistics for counts and functions of counts. In general, less emphasis on computation, and more on interpretation. Reorganized statistics chapters for better comprehension with regression analysis and logistic regression in their own chapters. A new overview of statistical analysis, including discussion of data preparation, description, modeling, inference, interpretation, and the communication of results.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I am teaching out of this book and the accompanying workbook for the first time, and I cannot express how terrible they are. The text is extremely overwritten (10 pages for something that could be expressed in one page), the statistics section is not clear at all, the workbook exercises are either too basic or overly complicated, and the text and the workbook answer key are riddled with errors. As a result of this last issue, not only do I need to do the usual work of crafting and giving lectures, I also have to comb the book for errors so that I can correct them for my students and redo all of the exercises so that I have an error-free answer key. I will never use these books again.

This author needs to take two classes at whichever university she teaches: (1) instructional design and (2) writing concisely. This book has quite a lot of good information, but it is all buried within convoluted fluff. There are many other books on research methodology that (a) do a better job of explaining, (b) include more comprehensive rules for research, and (c) don't take up so much of your valuable time with fluff. I recommend you look at those other books -- especially if you are a professor who is choosing a book for your students.

This was a book that I ordered for a college class. The professor for the course had to address several issues with the book as far poor descriptions of terms and research methods. The work books was a pain and not well written. The book was so bad that the professor cut several pages out of the reading and we almost completely stopped using the text by the end of the semester.

Worst book I have ever experienced for use in a college course. AWFUL. The book is very wordy and uses way too many examples. It also introduces an overabundance of formulas to learn in the later chapters. If you have never taken statistics prior to taking this course, you may wish that you

had. Especially if your professor tests heavily on the formulas. They are not explained well enough with explicit examples to follow to facilitate learning.

This was required for a university course. I would never recommend this book. The author explains such simple elements in the most difficult way. If you cannot explain something simply, you just don't know it well enough.

This item arrived on time and that has made me happy about the speed of delivery. This item was received in the condition it was described. Awesome! And I like that it was exactly what I was looking for and that this seller did not screw up my order and that we had no issues whatsoever. Amazing transaction. Thank you very much! A+++++++ :D

Book arrived with a pretty torn up last page. The page is blank so this isn't a huge impediment. Already has multiple instances of highlighting present. Mostly want to be sure these were documented details as they're important relevant to my status as a renter.

This book was ordered for a college course my daughter was enrolled in. The book is required for the course and ordering from as opposed to the campus book store saved us a lot of money. My daughter thought the writing was clear and concise and easy to follow. She was pleasantly surprised at how easy it was for her to stay interested in the subject matter and not have her mind wander because she was bored with what she was reading which is often the case with college text books.

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