Applications of Network Analysis to Political Science
POL 682, Spring 2008
University of Arizona
Social Sciences Building 332
Tuesday: 3:30-5:50 p.m.

Instructor: Ramiro Berardo.
Office Location: Social Sciences Bl. 337.
Office Hours: Thursday 10:00-11:15 and by appointment.
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Course Description:
Political scientists are increasingly becoming aware of the richness of Social Network Analysis (SNA) as an approach to understand how political actors “behave in context”. Particularly in the last two decades or so, many new technical developments have allowed scholars to study in a more systematic way the intertwined relationship between social structure and political phenomena at the micro level. However, and despite this new array of techniques, many in the profession still remain uninformed of the rich opportunities that SNA tools provide to understand political phenomena. This seminar has two main goals: 1) to make us think “structurally” about the issues we study and 2) to equip students with a basic understanding of the techniques of SNA that can be applied to specific research questions in the different areas of our discipline.

Books:
There are two books that you might consider buying (there are copies available at the U. of A. Bookstore in the Student Union):


You are not required to buy them, but keep in mind that they would be very handy additions to your library in case you do some network-related research in the future.

Requirements and Assignments:

1. Participation. This will not be a typical “methods” class, and thus I will not lecture regularly (save a couple of exceptions here and there). I expect every student taking
this class for credit to learn from what they read and the give and take with their fellow students during our weekly meetings.

**Note:** if you are just sitting in the class, please keep the preceding paragraph in mind. You are more than welcome to talk, but please understand that if you talk too much, you are probably negatively affecting students that need a grade for participation.

2. **Assignments.** There are 7 assignments throughout the semester (each worth 5% of the final grade). All of them are “thought” papers that you will email to me no later than 2:00 p.m. the day before class (there is a schedule for assignments in the website that you can check with more information). All assignments are individual.

3. **Final Paper.** There is one final paper due at the end of the semester that should not exceed 7000 words including references, appendices, tables, and footnotes (I will not grade papers exceeding the limit). Topic is open, but you need to discuss it with me! The papers may be written individually, or in small groups (no more than 3 coauthors). I expect group projects to be clearly more ambitious than individual projects (the definition of “clearly” is—of course—highly correlated to the instructor’s mood at the time of grading).

**Grading:** Your final grade will be calculated as follows:
- Class participation 20%
- Assignments 35%
- Final Paper 30%
- Pop quizzes: 10%

**Grading System.**
- A: 90 or more points.
- B: 80 to 89.99 points.
- C: 70 to 79.99 points.
- D: 60 to 69.99 points.
- F: 59.99 or less points.

**Course Website:**
The course’s website is anchored in D2L (Desire to Learn) at [www.d2l.arizona.edu](http://www.d2l.arizona.edu). Please check the website regularly for changes and updates of this syllabus and other course material.

**Code of Academic Integrity.**
Students are expected to observe the rules contained in the Code of Academic Integrity. Please be aware that any form of cheating in assignments or the final paper will not be tolerated and will result in a failing grade (F) for the course. For more information on the Code of Academic Integrity, point a browser to [http://dos.web.arizona.edu/uapolicies/cai1.html](http://dos.web.arizona.edu/uapolicies/cai1.html)

**Students with Disabilities.**
Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations must be registered in the Disability Resources Center (DRC). If you have still not registered, please call 621-3268, or visit http://drc.arizona.edu. We will then work out the necessary accommodations for you in this class.
Schedule of Meetings

Week 1. January 22
Introduction

W&F. Chapter 1.

Week 2. January 29
The Basics (data collection and measurement, introduction to UCINET)

W&F. Chapters 2 through 4.

Note: Install UCINET in your laptop (if you have one). Go to http://www.analytictech.com to download it.

Week 3. February 5
Centrality

W&F. Chapter 5.

**Assignment #1. “Thought” paper due February 4th at 2:00 p.m.**

**Week 4. February 12**

**The Strength of Ties**


**Assignment #2: “Thought” paper due February 11th at 2:00 p.m.**

**Week 5. February 19**

**Brokers and Structural Holes**

*Note*: I will handle a copy of these three chapters randomly to one of you. That person will be in charge of “administering” the copy.

**Assignment #3:** “Thought” paper due February 18th at 2:00 p.m.

**Week 6. February 26.**

**Social Equivalence**

W&F. ch. 9, 10, 12.

**Assignment #4:** “Thought” paper due February 25th at 2:00 p.m.

**Week 7. March 4.**

**Whole Networks**

W&F. chapter 7.

**Assignment # 5:** “Thought” paper due March 3rd at 2:00 p.m.

**Week 8. March 11.**

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Small Worlds.


Assignment #6: “Thought” paper due March 10th at 2:00 p.m.

March 18. Spring break—no classes.

Week 9. March 25 (lab)

Hypothesis Testing/ P* models.


Week 10. April 1

The Dynamics of Networks


Assignment #7: “Thought” paper due on March 31st at 2:00 p.m.

April 8.
Work on Papers.

April 11.
Turn your Drafts in!!!
E-mail me a copy of your draft no later than 11:59 p.m.

April 15-16-17.
Paper Drafts Discussion.
I’ll meet with each of you on an individual basis to discuss your paper drafts.

April 22.
Work on Papers.

April 29.
Papers Presentations (TBA).

May 6
Papers Presentations(TBA).