This class is the first semester of the two-semester Senior Honors sequence in the Politics Department. You must also be registered for the lab section affiliated with this class. During this semester you will prepare a research proposal that addresses the attached Thesis Proposal Guidelines. Research proposals are typically 15-20 pages long. You will also collect the data to be used in your thesis, so that you have a finished dataset by the end of the semester. There will also be regular (generally weekly) writing and lab assignments.

**Completion of an approved research proposal and dataset are necessary in order to progress to the second semester of Senior Honors.**

Seminar grades will be based largely on the quality of the final research proposal. However, grades will also take into account completion of the weekly writing and lab assignments as well as attendance in class and lab. Please note that attendance at all class and lab meetings, and completion of all class and lab assignments, are mandatory, not optional.

All students continuing on to Senior Honors II will present their research at the Politics/IR Honors Conference, to be held on a Friday in April 2018. Final theses will be due to faculty readers one week prior to the Honors Conference. We will give you the precise date as soon as it is available; please note that the Honors Conference is an all-day event from approximately 9 AM-8 PM, and that attendance at the conference is mandatory. We also expect that you will all participate in the CAS Undergraduate Research Conference in the spring of 2018, date TBD.

Stata: Many of you will wish to purchase your own 6- or 12-month license for Stata so you can work without relying on the NYU labs. Stata/IC 15 is sufficient for your needs; a 6 month license is $45 (12 month is $89). Pricing and instructions for purchasing are at [http://www.stata.com/order/new/edu/gradplans/student-pricing/](http://www.stata.com/order/new/edu/gradplans/student-pricing/).

Most of our students apply for DURF grants in the fall (deadline typically early November) and most are successful. These grants can be used to underwrite the costs of purchasing Stata, as well as any data collection/copying/travel or any other research-related costs, as well as the opportunity costs of your time. Maximum grants are usually in the neighborhood of $1000.

Our primary text for the semester will be Mastering 'Metrics: The Path from Cause to Effect, by Joshua D. Angrist & Jörn-Steffen Pischke (Princeton 2014). I may also assign additional articles throughout the semester.
9/6    Mastering Metrics, Intro and Chapter 1
9/11   Mastering Metrics, Chapter 3
9/13
9/18   Mastering Metrics, Chapter 5
9/20
9/25   Mastering Metrics, Chapter 4
9/27
10/2   Mastering Metrics, Chapter 3
10/4
10/9   No Class
10/11  Mastering Metrics, Chapter 6
10/16  Research Proposal Workshop
10/18
10/23  Research Proposal Workshop
10/25
10/30  Research Proposal Workshop
11/1
11/6   Research Proposal Workshop
11/8
11/13  Research Proposal Workshop
11/15
11/20  Research Proposal Workshop
11/22  No Class
11/27  Research Proposal Presentations
11/29
12/4   Research Proposal Presentations
12/6
12/11  Research Proposal Presentations
12/12
12/13

Final Thesis Proposal Due by noon Friday, December 22
Thesis Proposal Guidelines  
Senior Honors I/Department of Politics

I. Statement of Research Question

II. Literature Review
   a. What has been published that is relevant to your question?
      i. Focus on political science journals
      ii. Order chronologically, within thematic areas
   b. In what way does each piece of work not address your question adequately or completely?

III. Causal Model
   a. What is the answer you propose for your question?
   b. Justify/explain your causal story, referring to and citing existing literature as needed

IV. Problems With Causal Inference
   a. What problems do you have with making causal inferences (e.g., endogeneity/selection bias)?
   b. How does your research design address these problems?

V. Testable Hypotheses
   a. What specific hypotheses/predictions from your causal model can be tested using your research design?
   b. Define independent and dependent variables in your design, and the expected relationships between them
   c. Discuss the factors that may affect the outcome of interest, but that are not part of your causal model, for which you will want to control in your empirical tests (control variables)

VI. Description of Data
   a. Provide a detailed description of your data and the sources from which it was obtained
   b. Provide the coding scheme for all variables
   c. Discuss any measurement issues/problems you have
   d. Report a table of summary statistics for all variables and observations

VII. Empirical Method and Results
   a. Provide the equation/s you will use to estimate effects of independent and control variables on dependent variable/s
   b. Report your expectations for each of the coefficients of your indpt vbles

VIII. Conclusion
   a. What inferences will you be able to draw from your research design?
   b. What inferences will you not be able to draw from your research design?