1 OVERVIEW

Course Description
Social network analysis is the broad set of theories and statistical approaches aimed at understanding the interdependence between units, be they molecules, words, people, organizations, or countries. This course provides an introduction to the use of social network analysis for the study of politics. The course will help students understand the methodological underpinning of this approach and provide examples of substantive applications.

Course Objectives
By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Evaluate the usefulness of social network analysis for a given research question
2. Describe and compare individuals’ positions within a network
3. Describe and compare the features of networks
4. Measure relationships between network features, network positions, and individual attributes
5. Develop and test theories that account for the interdependence between actors

Required Book

Software
Students will learn to perform social network analysis using the free statistical package, R (https://www.r-project.org/). Before the course begins, students are expected to have basic familiarity with the R programming language.

2 GRADES

Students’ grades for the course are comprised of the following components:

Participation (20%): Students’ participation grades hinge on their contribution to each course meeting. Students will earn a B grade for the week if they are able to demonstrate their familiarity with the readings, a B+/A- grade if they can demonstrate an understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of these readings, and an A if they demonstrate an understanding of how these readings connect with or contradict material from earlier in the course.
ASSIGNMENTS (50%): Students will complete eight assignments based on the course material. Specific instructions for each assignment will be provided the week before it is due. All assignments are due by 5pm on the Monday before the relevant class and must be submitted to me by email. Late assignments will not be accepted except with a documented excuse. All assignments must be carefully proofread and properly formatted using the APSA guidelines, single spaced, with 12-point Times New Roman font, and one-inch margins. All graphics and tables should be approaching publication quality. Assignments must include as an appendix all relevant R code used to perform the analysis.

FINAL PAPER (20%): The final paper requires students to develop and test a theory using approaches from the course. More details will be available as the semester progresses.

PRESENTATION OF FINAL PAPER (10%): In the last meetings of the course, each student will present their final paper. Presentations should be 10-15 minutes and must include slides.

The final letter grade will be assigned according to the standard table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>87-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>73-76</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>67-69</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>60-62</td>
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<td>D-</td>
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3 POLICIES

University Attendance Policy
Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

Academic Honor Policy
The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to “...be honest and truthful and ...[to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University.” (Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found at http://fda.fsu.edu/Academics/Academic-Honor-Policy.)

Americans With Disabilities Act
Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; and (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodation to a student until appropriate verification from the Student Disability Resource Center has been provided. This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact: Student Disability Resource Center, 874 Traditions Way, 108 Student Services Building, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167, 850-644-9566 (voice), 850-644-8504 (TDD), sdrc@admin.fsu.edu, http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu/

Syllabus Change Policy
Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.
4 SCHEDULE

4.1 INTRODUCTION TO NETWORKS
- Wasserman & Faust, Chapters 1-2

4.2 INTERDEPENDENCE AS A METHODOLOGICAL NUISANCE
- Wasserman & Faust, Chapters 3-4

4.3 EGOCENTRIC NETWORKS

4.4 WHOLE-NETWORK STUDIES
4.5 DESCRIBING NETWORKS

- Wasserman & Faust, Chapters 5-6

4.6 SUBGRAPHS

- Wasserman & Faust, Chapters 7-8

4.7 TIE STRENGTH


4.8 POSITIONS AND STRUCTURE

- Wasserman & Faust, Chapters 9-10
4.9 SMALL WORLDS, PREFERENTIAL ATTACHMENT, AND REINFORCEMENT


4.10 INFERENTIAL NETWORK ANALYSIS


4.11 COMPARING NETWORKS


4.12 CAUSATION

4.13 NATURAL & FIELD EXPERIMENTS


4.14 AGENT-BASED MODELS & LAB EXPERIMENTS


4.15 SO WHAT?

We will conclude by discussing the problem of interdependence for the study of politics. When can network analysis address those problems? When will it fall short?

Last updated: September 13, 2016