POLI 300 **GUIDE TO FINAL EXAM** FALL 2010

The **Final Exam** is scheduled for **Friday, December 17, 1:00-3:00 PM, in PUP 208**. Please see me in advance if this time presents a real problem for you. **Problem Set #12B** may be turned in any time through Tuesday, December 21, 5:00 PM (end of the final exam period).

About one-third of the final exam will focus on the material from Topics #12 (Table Percentages) and #13 (Correlation and Regression) covered in class since the Second Midterm Test, and it will follow the same format as the midterms (an approximately equal balance of multiple choice questions and "problem set" types of questions.

The remainder of the final exam (about two-thirds) will be comprehensive in nature and will be in a quite different format from the two midterm tests. You will be presented with about 18-20 *pairs* of related terms and concepts. All such terms and concepts will be drawn from the list below. You will be asked to write on about 13-15 of these *pairs*. For each item you select, you will be asked to define and discuss each of the two terms or concepts briefly and, in particular, to make clear the *nature* and *significance* of the *distinction* that is to be drawn between them. These obviously will *not* be long essays. One solid paragraph, clearly and concisely written, will be adequate for full credit; you should say the most important things and say them as precisely as possible. Illustrative examples may be helpful in some cases. The suggested time for each item will be *six* minutes. In my experience, it is necessary for students to use most or all of the two hours in order to write complete answers. Each answer will be evaluated for completeness and accuracy on a scale from 0 to 6. The items in the list below certainly are not of equal generality or importance, and the more general or important ones are more likely to appear as items on the test. But many items listed below that do not appear as *questions* on the test may nevertheless be appropriately used in (good) *answers*.

Course grades (A, B, C, D, F) will be available from the Registrar (through myUMBC) shortly after New Year's Day. However, as soon as they are ready (hopefully before New Year's Day), I will post grades for the final exam, together with course grades, on the course website for all students who explicitly ask me to do this by checking a box on the final exam. (If you request this, your grade will be identified by the five digits of your Campus ID Number. Grades will be listed by numerical ID order, not by alphabetical order of last names, in order to preserve maximum anonymity.)

survey research
commercial pre-election polls
American National Election Studies
panel survey
pooled cross-section
non-random sampling
convenience sampling
self-selected samples
interviewer selected samples
quota sampling
random sampling
sample
population
sampling fraction
sampling frame
simple random sample (*SRS*)
sampling error
inverse square root law (*of sampling error*)
margin of error
95%-confidence interval
population parameter
sample statistic

OVER =>

multistage sample
stratified sample
clustered sample
non-sampling error
drawn sample
completed sample
response rate
closed-form question
open-ended question
self-administered (*mail*) *survey*
telephone survey
personal (*face-to-face*) *interviewing*
variables
values
unit of analysis
nominal variable
ordinal variable
interval variable
ratio variable
discrete variable
continuous variable
coding
recoding variables
operationalization
indicator (or *proxy*)
index
accuracy of measurement
precision of measurement
reliability of measurement
bias of measurement
validity of measurement
observed values
raw data/data array/data spreadsheet
missing data
univariate analysis
frequency distribution
absolute frequency
relative frequency (percent)
adjusted relative frequency (*valid percent*)
cumulative frequency
frequency bar graph
class interval
histogram
continuous density curve
symmetric distribution
skewed distribution
central tendency
mode
median
mean
deviations from mean
percentile
dispersion/*variability*/spread
(*simple* or *total*) *range*
interdecile range
interquartile range
mean deviation
variance
standard deviation
standard score
normal distribution
68-95-99.7% rule
bivariate analysis
measures of association
positive association
negative association
independent variable
dependent variable
crosstabulation
marginal frequencies
expected frequencies
column percentages
row percentages
total percentages
recovering case counts
scattergram
"vertical strips" in scattergrams
least squares criterion
regression coefficient (*slope*) [b]
correlation coefficient [r]
regression constant (y-intercept) [a]
regression equation [$\hat{y} = a + bx$]
linear vs. curvilinear relationship