Read Me

October 24, 2020

1 List of Results

1. Most students take the methods course prior to the capstone. See the "Methods" column of Table 2.
2. Very few students complete all of their upper-level electives prior to taking the capstone. See the "Electives" column of Table 2.
3. Most students' capstone research does not reflect the elective courses that were completed. See the "Topic Match" column of Table 2.
4. American politics electives have enrolled the fewest students, but they offer the most exposure to research. See the first row of Table 3.
5. Only half of the upper-level electives examined required students to engage in some act of research or research design. See the "Total" row of Table 3.
6. Four out of the seven key attributes are satisfied by a majority of students. See Table 5.
7. Most theses contain three or fewer of the key attributes. See Figure 1.
8. The prerequisites do not matter for the quality of senior projects. See Figure 2 and Figure 3.
9. The curriculum does not seem to matter for the quality of capstone research Instead, satisfaction of the criteria is driven by which section of Senior Seminar students take. See Table 6, Table 7, and Figure 4.

2 Software

The analysis was conducted using R version 3.6.1 and Rstudio version 1.0.153. The necessary packages were:

- readxl
- tidyverse
- tufte
- rmarkdown

3 Instructions

1. Click "Senior Seminar PS Replication.Rproj" to launch the entire project in Rstudio.
2. Open the "Scripts" folder.
3. Open the "Processing" folder.
4. open the file "processing.Rmd", and knit it.
5. This processes the original data files to create the "analysis.RData" file.
6. Go back to the "Scripts" folder and then open the "Analysis" folder.
7. Open the "analysis.Rmd" file to replicate the analysis for any table or figure in the paper.
8. Alternatively, you can open the "Senior Seminar Assessment Paper.Rmd" file in the main directory. Knitting that file will reproduce the entire paper.