

POL222 Introduction to Quantitative Reasoning I

**Essay Assignment 3
Marking Rubric**

Evaluation Components	Evaluation Criteria	Points
1. Theory (10 points)	<p>The causal theory and hypothesis are appropriate, well specified and sufficiently elaborated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The dependent and independent variables in the proposed causal theory are appropriate concepts corresponding to the variables used in the linear regression analysis of the case study of student's choice. - A theoretical mechanism linking independent and dependent variables is well elaborated and convincing. - The causal hypothesis is appropriate in light of the theory in question and well defined in terms of the observable variables used in the linear regression of the case study. 	0 – 10
2. Empirical Analysis (40 points)	<p>(1) The discussion on control variables is appropriate, elaborated, and convincing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The discussion of control variables addresses whether they are confounding factors, whether they are causally prior or posterior to the main causal variable, and why you want to control for them, and the discussion is clear, elaborated and convincing. - If these control variables are not confounding variables, a theoretical relationship between these variables and the dependent variable is presented clearly and convincingly. 	0 – 20
	<p>(2) The result of a multiple linear regression analysis is properly interpreted and sufficiently discussed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The table of the linear regression result is included and effectively used in the discussion. - The relationship between the dependent variable and the main causal variable is properly assessed and interpreted based on the coefficient of this variable. - Substantive significance of the main causal variable is discussed adequately, and the discussion is informative and convincing. - The relationship between the dependent and other independent (control) variables has been briefly yet informatively discussed. 	0 – 20

3. Discussion (40 points)	(1) The question of reverse causality/simultaneity and the potential of omitted confounding variables are well discussed, and the argument is convincing.	0 – 20
	(2) How the results of empirical research should be interpreted is sufficiently discussed and the discussion is informative, appropriate, and convincing.	0 – 20
4. Writing (10 points)	<p>The essay is well organized and well written overall.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Has a clear argument easily identified and understood. - Has a concise yet informative introduction and conclusion. - Maintains consistency, coherency, and natural flow throughout. - Has a sophisticated writing style. - Has few typographical or grammatical errors. - Is accurately and fully documented (e.g., footnotes, reference, citations) wherever needed. - The essay is within the required word count. 	0 – 10

- For each evaluation criterion above, your essay will be marked in the following scale — Excellent, Good, Adequate, Marginal, and Inadequate — and the points proportional to the points allocated to each criterion will be assigned. For example, for the criterion for which 0 - 10 points are allocated, your essay will receive 10 points if your mark is Excellent, 8 points if Good, 6 points if Adequate, 4 if Marginal, and 2 if Inadequate. If your essay hardly addresses the evaluation criterion, your essay will receive 0 point for that criterion.