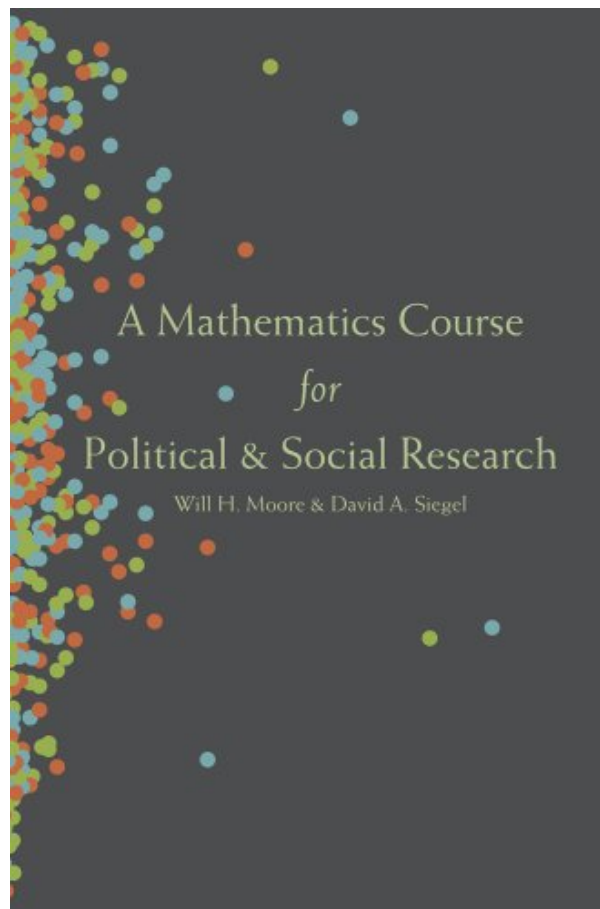
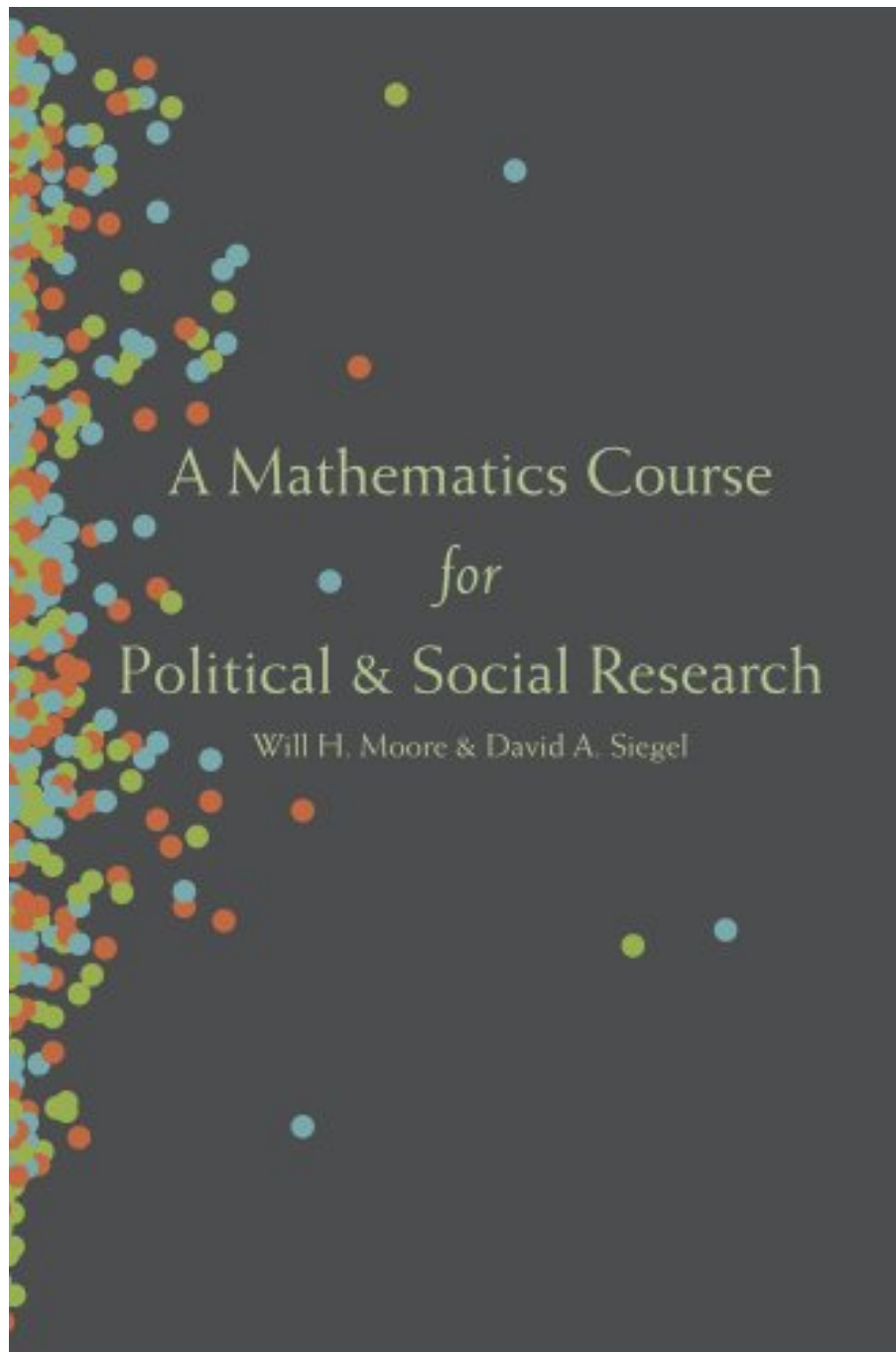


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Political science and sociology increasingly rely on mathematical modeling and sophisticated data analysis, and many graduate programs in these fields now require students to take a "math camp" or a semester-long or yearlong course to acquire the necessary skills. Available textbooks are written for mathematics or economics majors, and fail to convey to students of political science and sociology the reasons for learning often-abstract mathematical concepts. A Mathematics Course for Political and Social Research fills this gap, providing both a primer for math novices in the social sciences and a handy reference for seasoned researchers.

The book begins with the fundamental building blocks of mathematics and basic algebra, then goes on to cover essential subjects such as calculus in one and more than one variable, including optimization, constrained optimization, and implicit functions; linear algebra, including Markov chains and eigenvectors; and probability. It describes the intermediate steps most other textbooks leave out, features numerous exercises throughout, and grounds all concepts by illustrating their use and importance in political science and sociology.

- Uniquely designed and ideal for students and researchers in political science and sociology
  - Uses practical examples from political science and sociology
  - Features "Why Do I Care?" sections that explain why concepts are useful
  - Includes numerous exercises
  - Complete online solutions manual (available only to professors, email david.siegel at duke.edu, subject line "Solution Set")
  - Selected solutions available online to students
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## Mathematica

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A book that political scientists waited 20 years for...

By Scott Basinger

For decades, political scientists with little math background were introduced to the techniques using books borrowed from economics departments. I myself used Chiang as an undergraduate, then used Binmore and Simon & Blume as a graduate student. When I tried to teach, the selections were not much better: I tried Sydsaeter & Hammond, Klein, and too many books to mention here. With rare exceptions, their examples are drawn from economics and assume the student has the appropriate background knowledge. A heavy burden fell on the instructor to persuade students that the material was relevant to them.

This book has taken away some of that burden with copious "why should I care?" subsections that explain the material's relevance. As the authors explain in their preface, they also sought to strip away some of the bravado that is too typical in math textbooks, removing the "Clearly..." and "Obviously..." meta-discourse.

The book's coverage makes it ideal for a one-semester math class or a summer 'math camp' for students in the typical, empirically-oriented doctoral program in political science. It has sections on univariate and multivariate calculus, probability theory, and matrix algebra. I assigned it for my math class this summer despite having only the table of contents in hand, but after using the book, I'll assign it again (and again, and again...) enthusiastically.

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