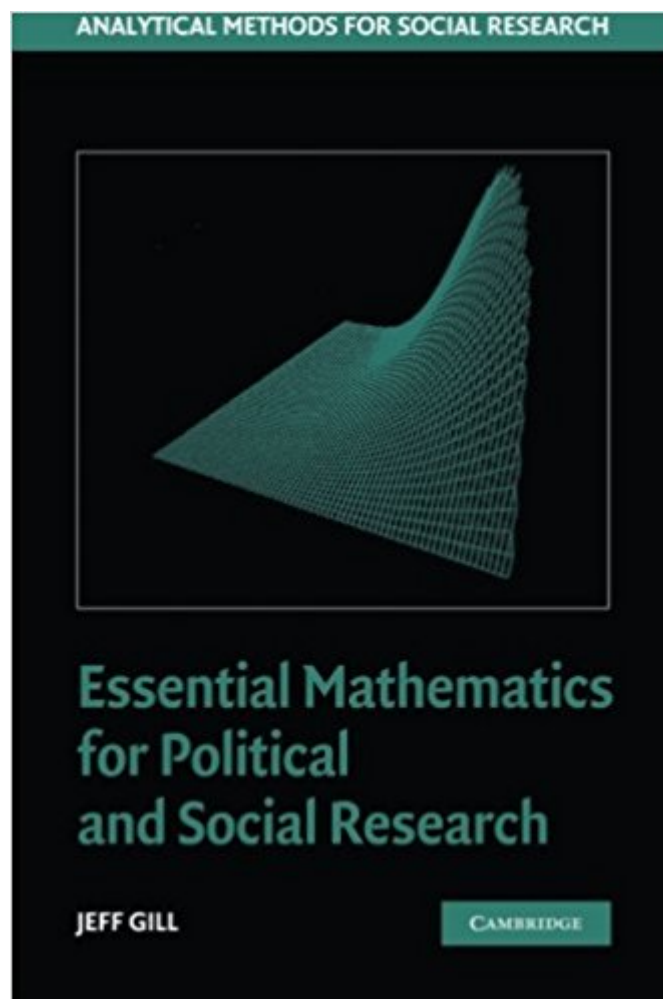




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# Essential Mathematics For Political And Social Research (Analytical Methods For Social Research)



## Synopsis

Essential Mathematics for Political and Social Research addresses an educational deficiency in the social and behavioral sciences. This 2006 book was the first of its kind to specifically address the comprehensive introduction to the mathematical principles needed by modern social scientists. The material introduces basic mathematical principles necessary to do analytical work in the social sciences, starting from first principles, but without unnecessary complexity. The core purpose is to present fundamental notions in standard notation and standard language with a clear, unified framework throughout. Through examples and exercises, this book is intended to not only motivate specific mathematical principles and practices, but also introduce the way that social science researchers use these tools. The intended emphasis is on conceptual understanding of key principles and their subsequent application.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Ultimately, math is a language, and Jeff Gill's new book is a comprehensive guide to its grammar, syntax, and vocabulary. The book covers essential topics for advanced social science research and will be an excellent teaching, reference, and self-study tool." --Scott Desposato, University of California, San Diego

The body of topics that Gill covers is both appropriate and desirable for any primer in mathematics. The use of substantive examples is really outstanding, and makes this a

uniquely attractive commodity for political science faculty who would be teaching a mathematical research/methods class over the course of a semester." --Alan Wiseman, Ohio State University

This 2006 book was the first of its kind to specifically address the comprehensive introduction to the mathematical principles needed by modern social scientists. The material introduces basic mathematical principles necessary to do analytical work in the social sciences. The core purpose is to present fundamental notions in standard notation and standard language.

I struggled to find a social sciences mathematics book that I could use as theory for predictive analysis and data mining endeavors and this is it. It doesn't try to teach you every detail about each math discipline used in social sciences mathematics. It introduces what all the disciplines are and gives you introductions into real-life studies done by other researchers with specific details on math operations used in the study. And the best part is that each cited real-life study is in the math section that it applies to. That is awesome. I read through each chapter to get the overall feel for how math is used to find answers to an actual field study, then use my cache of other math discipline specific books to re-learn the details of particular mathematic operations so I can apply them. What pisses me off the most is that when I was in engineering school we did almost all of the things mentioned in this book in a course called numerical analysis. But the course didn't relate any of that mathematical knowledge to real world applications (or even tell us that it's a huge field of study that people have been doing great things with for years). We only toiled over huge complex problems with no applicable understanding of it. Had I known the practical power of applying what we were learning I could've created some really cool stuff (or at least been interested enough to give a crap about the field of study). Other awesome math books (and the ones I wish I had in college, instead of those over-expensive pieces of s\*\*t that we learned from) are... The Math Dude's Quick and Dirty Guide to Algebra (Quick & Dirty Tips) by Jason Marshall (Author) Secrets of Mental Math: The Mathemagician's Guide to Lightning Calculation and Amazing Math Tricks by Arthur Benjamin Math, Better Explained: Learn to Unlock Your Math Intuition by Kalid Azad Trigonometry: A Complete Introduction: Teach Yourself by Hugh Neill Calculus: An Intuitive and Physical Approach (Second Edition) (Dover Books on Mathematics) by Morris Kline Schaum's 3,000 Solved Problems in Calculus (Schaum's 3000) by Elliott Mendelson An Introduction to Differential Equations and Their Applications (Dover Books on Mathematics) by Stanley J. Farlow Statistics For Dummies by Deborah J. Rumsey Statistics II for Dummies by Deborah J. Rumsey Probability Theory: A Concise Course (Dover Books on Mathematics) by Y. A. Rozanov Essential Mathematics for Political and

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Electricity and Magnetism (Dover Books on Physics) by Edson Ruther Peck  
Teaching with the Brain in Mind, 2nd Edition by Eric Jensen

This book is fantastic. Of course, as many reviewers have pointed out, there are other texts such as Simon and Blume or Chiang that are targeted explicitly at an economics audience that may be better suited to that purpose -- training people in (neoclassical) economics methods. These texts, however, are unpalatable for many who operate outside this field. In this sense, the book is a contemporary methods text that fills an important void. Still, there are many areas in which Gill's book is far superior than the econ books. The focus on substantive examples across the social sciences is pedagogically, much better, and the treatment of Markov Chains and Linear Algebra is first rate. All this aside, there are a couple of key things that make this book a must have. 1) the style in which the material is presented is far superior than the maths for economists books (i.e. it's actually pleasant to read) 2) The examples he gives both in chapter and as end of chapter assignments cover a much broader area than the econ methods books and gives the material an applied flavor -- so this book appeals to a broad social science audience 3) the price. The paperback copy is \$33 whereas most of the econ methods books are in excess of \$140. This book is far better value for money. If you want more advanced treatments of the material then go to the references he provides. This is a book about building fundamentals in preparation for more advanced methods texts and it does a great job of that.

Jeff's use of political science examples with the range of mathematical constructs makes this a particularly good book for beginning graduate political science students and undergraduate political science students who want to prepare themselves for graduate study. If you are new to political science and looking for a math refresher, at least scan through the book in the library before you adopt something else. My only regret is that the answers to sample problems are only available through a teaching edition.

Book in excellent condition!

The Kindle version of this book is terribly formatted online or via e-reader, and has several major

errors that are not present in the paperback edition other students in class used. If I were the author, I would withdraw it from sale. It's certainly not fit to be used in a classroom in its current format. Because some fundamental mathematical principles are printed incorrectly in the Kindle version, I would not use it as a student. After finding a few glaring mistakes, I had no confidence in the Kindle version and had to double-check everything with another source before doing homework. The content of the text itself is not particularly well-suited for students needing a review or who are encountering material for the first time; the abrupt transition when explaining the different forms of matrix multiplication is particularly egregious, and I doubt any student without previous study of matrices could make heads or tails of it. In short, if this is a required textbook for a course and you don't already know the material, drop the class. If you already know the material, why take the class (or read this book)?

Good

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