

**An Introduction to Qualitative Methods  
Political Science 768**

**Ted Hopf**

**Winter 2008  
Thursdays, 830-1115am  
Denney 0213**

**Tuesdays 1-3pm**

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This course is an introduction to qualitative methods in political science. After a review of the main competing epistemological approaches, we concentrate on the most prevalent qualitative method in political science: the comparative case-study. We then turn to interpretivism, ethnography, and discourse analysis, and their respective applications in political science.

Class Requirements: Three 10 page papers, as well as reaction memos to readings that you will then present in class. Papers will be on various topics: but one each on discourse analysis and ethnography as executed in one or more of the readings. One may be on your dissertation topic. One may be on a defense of epistemological choice/s. One may be a case-study research design, with concentration on conceptualization, operationalization, measurement, and case selection.

**Books to Buy: (I have not ordered these, suspecting you have your favorite e-sites for book purchases)**

Thomas Kuhn, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions* 3d ed. (Chicago 1996)

Paul Feyerabend, *Against Methodology* Revised ed. (Verso 1988)

Karl Popper, *Logic of Scientific Discovery* (Basic 1959)

Frederic C. Schaffer, *Democracy in Translation: Understanding Politics in an Unfamiliar Culture*, (Cornell 1998)

Katherine Cramer Walsh, *Talking about Politics: Informal Groups and Social Identity in American Life* (Chicago 2004)

Paul Rabinow and William M. Sullivan, ed. *Interpretive Social Science* (California 1987)

Melissa Victoria Harris-Lacewell, *Barbershops, Bibles, and BET* (Princeton 2004)

James Scott, *Weapons of the Weak: Everyday Forms of Peasant Resistance* (Yale 1985)

Lisa Wedeen, *Ambiguities of Domination* (Chicago, 1999)

Nina Eliasoph, *Avoiding Politics: How Americans Produce Apathy in Everyday Life* (Cambridge 1998).

Clarissa Rile Hayward, *De-Facing Power* (Cambridge 2000).

3 January No Class (Making a virtue of necessity, it gives you an extra week to wade your way through 10 January's demanding reading list)

10 January

**How we think we know what we think we know, or four competing epistemologies**

Karl Popper, *Logic of Scientific Discovery* (Basic 1959), 27-88, (Problem of Induction thru Falsifiability and Falsification) 106-26, (Theory and Experiment thru Logical Ranges) 247-73 (Indeterminist Metaphysics thru Corroborability)

Imre Lakatos, "Falsification and the Methodology of Scientific Research Programmes," in Lakatos and Alan Musgrave, eds. *Criticism and the Growth of Knowledge* (Cambridge 1970), 91-138, 173-80 Skim 138-73

Thomas Kuhn, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions* (ALL)

Paul Feyerabend, *Against Methodology* (ALL)

For those of you with no background in the philosophy of science, perhaps start with the following:

Alan F. Chalmers, *What is this thing called science?* (Queensland 1976), 1-145  
or  
W.H. Newton-Smith, *The Rationality of Science*, (Routledge 1981), Chs 1-6

17 January

**Case Studies I: What are they good for and how do we execute them?**

John Gerring, "What is a Case Study and what is it Good For?" *American Political Science Review* 98:2 (May 2004), 341-54

Alexander L. George and Andrew Bennett, *Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences* (MIT 2005), 19-34, 73-88, 109-24, 151-232

Henry Brady and David Collier, eds. *Rethinking Social Inquiry* (Rowman Littlefield 2005), 139-67, 229-66

James Mahoney and Dietrich Rueschemeyer, eds. *Comparative Historical Analysis in the Social Sciences* (Cambridge 2003), Chapters 10-11, 337-404

Recommended:

Alexander L. George and Timothy J. McKeown, "Case Studies and Theories of Organizational Decision Making," in *Advances in Information Processing in Organizations*, Vol. 2, (JAI Press 1985), 21-58

Alexander L. George, "Case Studies and Theory Development," in Paul G. Lauren, ed. *Diplomacy: New Approaches in History, Theory, and Policy* (Free 1970), 43-68

24 January

### **Case Studies II: Conceptualizing a Variable, Democracy, for example**

Giovanni Sartori, "Concept Misformation in Comparative Politics," *APSR*, 64:4 (December 1970), 1033-53

Gerardo L. Munck and Jay Verkuilen, "Conceptualizing and Measuring Democracy: Evaluating Alternative Indices," *Comparative Political Studies* 35:1 (February 2002), 5-34

Dean E. McHenry, Jr., "The Numeration of Events: Studying Political Protest in India," in , " in Dvora Yanow and Peregrine Schwartz-Shea, eds. *Interpretation and Method: Empirical Research Methods and the Interpretive Turn* (Sharpe 2006), 187-202

Frederic C. Schaffer, *Democracy in Translation: Understanding Politics in an Unfamiliar Culture*, Ithaca, NY: Cornell UP, 1998). (ALL)

Ido Oren, "Political Science as History: A Reflexive Approach," in *Interpretation and Method*, 215-27

Pamela Paxton, "Women's Suffrage in the Measurement of Democracy: Problems of Operationalization," *Studies in Comparative International Development* 35:3 (Fall 2000), 92-111

31 January

### **Interpretivism**

Orlando Figes, "Tolstoy's Real Hero," *New York Review of Books* 54:18 (November 22, 2007) <http://www.nybooks.com/articles/20810>

Daniel Little, "Interpretation Theory," *Varieties of Social Explanation* (Westview 1991) 68-87 (maybe 114-58 too)

Clifford Geertz, *Interpretation of Cultures* (Basic 1973), 3-54, 311-26, 360-4

Paul Rabinow and William M. Sullivan, "The Interpretive Turn: A Second Look," in Rabinow and Sullivan, ed. *Interpretive Social Science* (California 1987), 1-15

Charles Taylor, "Interpretation and the Sciences of Man," in Rabinow and Sullivan, 33-81

Hopf, "The Limits of Interpreting Evidence," in eds. Richard Ned Lebow and Mark Irving Lichbach, *Theory and Evidence in Comparative Politics and International Relations* (Palgrave 2007), 55-84

Recommended:

Craig Calhoun, "Cultural Difference and Historical Specificity," *Critical Social Theory*, 70-96

Daniel Little, "Relativism," *Varieties of Social Explanation* (Westview 1991), 202-21

Steven Lukes, "On the Social Determination of Truth," in Michael T. Gibbons,

Robert N. Proctor, "Max Weber and Wertfreie Wissenschaft," *Value-Free Science? Purity and Power in Modern Knowledge* (Harvard 1991), 134-54

Hayden White, "Interpretation in History," *Tropics of Discourse* (Hopkins 1978), 51-80

Peter L. Berger and Thomas Luckmann, *The Social Construction of Reality* (Anchor 1966)

R.S. Perinbanayagam, "The Definition of the Situation: an Analysis of the Ethnomethodological and Dramaturgical View," *Sociological Quarterly* 15:4 (Autumn 1974) 521-41

John C. Heritage, "Ethnomethodology," in Anthony Giddens and Jonathan Turner, eds. *Social Theory Today* (Stanford 1987), 224-72, esp. 224-51

Dorothy Ross, *The Origins of American Social Science* (Cambridge 1991)

Albert O. Hirschman, "The Search for Paradigms as a Hindrance to Understanding," *World Politics* 22:2 (April 1970), 329-43 also in Rabinow and Sullivan

Peter Winch, "Understanding a Primitive Society," *American Philosophical Quarterly* 1:4 (October 1964), 307-24

E.H. Carr, *What is History?*, 3-35

Hans-Georg Gadamer, "Problem of Historical Consciousness," in Rabinow and Sullivan, 82-140

Richard J. Bernstein, *Beyond Objectivism and Relativism: Science, Hermeneutics, and Praxis* (Penn 1983), 109-69

Susan J. Hekman, *Hermeneutics and the Sociology of Knowledge* (Polity 1986), 91-159

7 February

### **Ethnography**

Clifford Geertz, "Deep Play," in Rabinow and Sullivan, 195-240, or 412-53 in *Interpretation of Cultures*

Joe Soss, "Talking our Way to Meaningful Explanations: A Practice-Centered View of Interviewing for Interpretive Research," in *Interpretation and Method*, 127-49

Frederic Charles Schaffer, "Ordinary Language Interviewing," in *Interpretation and Method*, 150-60

Steven Maynard-Moody and Michael Musheno, "Stories for Research," in *Interpretation and Method*, 316-30

Samer Shehata, "Ethnography, Identity, and the Production of Knowledge," in *Interpretation and Method*, 244-63

Recommended:

Vincent Crapanzano, "Hermes's Dilemma: The Masking of Subversion in Ethnographic Description," in James Clifford and George E. Marcus, eds. *Writing Culture* (California 1986), 51-76

James Clifford, "On Ethnographic Allegory," in *Writing Culture*, 98-121

George E. Marcus, "Contemporary Problems of Ethnography in the Modern World System," in *Writing Culture*, 165-88

Pierre Bourdieu, "Social Space and Symbolic Power," *Sociological Theory* 7:1 (1989), 14-25

Loic J D Wacquant, "Towards a Reflexive Sociology: A Workshop with Pierre Bourdieu," *Sociological Theory*

Rogers Brubaker, "Rethinking Classical Social Theory," *Theory and Society* 14:6 (November 1985), 745-75

Jeffrey C. Alexander, "The Reality of Reduction: The Failed Synthesis of Pierre Bourdieu," in Alexander, *Fin de Siecle Social Theory* (Verso 1995), 128-94

Craig Calhoun, "Habitus, Field, and Capital," in *Critical Social Theory*, 132-61

Paul DiMaggio, "Review Essay: On Pierre Bourdieu," *American Journal of Sociology* 84:6 (May 1979), 1460-74

14 February

### **Ethnography in American Politics**

Katherine Cramer Walsh, *Talking about Politics: Informal Groups and Social Identity in American Life* (Chicago: U of Chicago P, 2004) Jason Keiber

Melissa Victoria Harris-Lacewell, *Barbershops, Bibles, and BET* (Princeton UP, 2004) (ALL) Dave Traven

Nina Eliasoph, *Avoiding Politics: How Americans Produce Apathy in Everyday Life* (New York: Cambridge UP, 1998) Bentley Allan

Clarissa Hayward, *De-Facing Power* (New York: Cambridge UP, 2000) (Fernando Nunez)

21 February

### **Ethnography in Comparative Politics**

Lorraine Bayard de Volo, *Mothers of Heroes and Martyrs: Gender and Identity Politics in Nicaragua, 1979-1999* (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins UP, 2001). Preface, Chs 2,4,6 (Taken, but by who?)

James Scott, *Weapons of the Weak: Everyday Forms of Peasant Resistance* (New Haven, CT: Yale UP, 1985), (ALL) (Nina Kollars)

or

Lisa Wedeen, *Ambiguities of Domination* (Chicago: U of Chicago P, 1999) (ALL)  
(Caleb Gallemore)

28 February

### **Discourse Analysis**

Charles Taylor, "Language and Human Nature," in *Human Agency and Language* (Cambridge 1985), 215-47

Michael J. Shapiro, *Language and Political Understanding. Politics of Discursive Practices* (Yale 1981), 55-62, 127-64

Jennifer Milliken, "The Study of Discourse in International Relations: A Critique of Research and Methods," *European Journal of International Relations* 5:2 (June 1999), 225-54.

David Howarth and Jacob Torfing, eds., *Discourse Theory in European Politics* (Palgrave 2005) 1-32, 316-49

Recommended:

Hopf, "Discourse and Content Analysis: Some Fundamental Incompatibilities," *Qualitative Methods Newsletter*, Spring 2004, 31-3  
<http://www.asu.edu/clas/polisci/cqrm/Newsletter/Newsletter2.1.pdf#page=31>

Hubert L. Dreyfus and Paul Rabinow, *Michel Foucault: Beyond Structuralism and Hermeneutics* (Chicago 1982)

Edward W. Said, "Criticism Between Culture and System," *The World, the Text, and the Critic* (Harvard 1983), 178-225

Marc Angenot, "Social Discourse Analysis: Outlines of a Research Project," *Yale Journal of Criticism* 17:2 (2004), 199-215

Martin Reisigl and Ruth Wodak, "Institutionalising and Administrating Social Exclusion: The Discourse about Austrian Authorities' Refusals of Residence Permits for Aliens," in Reisigl and Wodak, *Discourse and Discrimination: Rhetorics of Racism and Antisemitism* (Routledge 2001), 205-62

6 March

### **Discourse Analysis in Political Science**

Carol Cohn, "Sex and Death in the Rational World of Defense Intellectuals," *Signs* 12:4 (Summer 1987), 687-718 (Graham)

Roxanne Lynn Doty, "Foreign Policy as Social Construction: A Post-Positivist Analysis of US Counterinsurgency Policy in the Phillipines," *International Studies Quarterly* 37:3 (September 1993), 297-320 (Graham)

Veronique Mottier, "From Welfare to Social Exclusion: Eugenic Social Policies and the Swiss National Order," in Howarth and Torfing, *Discourse Theory in European Politics*, 255-74. (Ryan)

James V. Wertsch, *Voices of Collective Remembering* (New York: Cambridge UP, 2002) Chs 2, 5, 6 (Jiwon)

Ruth Wodak and Teun A. van Dijk, eds., *Racism at the Top: Parliamentary Discourses on Ethnic Issues in Six European States* (Klagenfurt, Austria: Drava Verlag, 2000), Ch 5 (Ryan)

Gertraud Benke and Ruth Wodak, "The Discursive Construction of Individual Memories: How Austrian 'Wehrmacht' Soldiers Remember WWII," in J. R. Martin and Ruth Wodak, eds., *Re/reading the Past: Critical and Functional Perspectives on Time and Value* (Benjamins 2003), 115-38 (Pu)

Christopher Barnard, "Pearl Harbor in Japanese High School History Textbooks: The Grammar and Semantics of Responsibility," in Martin and Wodak, pp. 247-71 (Pu)

Ruth Wodak, Rudolf de Cillia, Martin Reisigl, and Karin Liebhart, *The Discursive Construction of National Identity*, trans. Angelika Hirsch and Richard Mitten (Edinburg: Edinburgh UP, 1999), Chs 2, 4-5 (Zoltan)

Recommended:

Aletta J. Norval, *Deconstructing Apartheid Discourse* (New York: Verso, 1996) Chs 2, 5