

International Relations 513

Social Scientific and Historical Research Methods

Spring 2009

When: Tu 5:30-8:20 pm
Where: VKC 204
Office Hours: Tu 2:00-3:30

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1. Course Description

This course offers an introduction to research methods. Emphasis is placed on the two central goals in social science analysis: the generation of descriptions and the identification of causal relationships. Various methodological options will be considered. However, an emphasis will be placed on the options that define the experimental, qualitative and quantitative traditions.

2. Requirements

i) Short papers (7 five page, double-spaced, papers (no papers longer than this will be accepted); worth a total of 50% of the final grade). These papers should summarize the key issues in the assigned readings, highlight their significance and implications for research practices, and offer critiques where appropriate.

ii) Final assignment (10 page, double-spaced, paper, 30% of the final grade). As a final assignment, students will be asked to discuss the main insights they have gained about research methods.

iii) Class participation (20% of the final grade) on the basis of the required readings, each and every week, and various exercises that will be announced prior to the relevant class.

3. Books to Purchase

Regarding the readings, articles, which make up much of the readings, are available on the Blackboard (under "Course Information"). In addition, the following required book can be purchased at the university bookstore.

W. Phillips Shively, *The Craft of Political Research* 7th edition (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2008).

Part I. Introduction

1. Starting Out: Research Questions and Ideas (Jan. 13)

Shively, *The Craft of Political Research*, Chs. 1 & 2.

Ultee, W. C., "Problem Selection in the Social Sciences: Methodology," pp. 12110-117, in Neil J. Smelser and Paul B. Bates (eds.), *International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences* (New York: Elsevier Science, 2001).

Snyder, Richard, "Creative Hypothesis Generating in Comparative Research," *Qualitative Methods: Newsletter of the American Political Science Association Organized Section on Qualitative Methods* Vol. 3, N° 2 (Fall 2005): 2-5.

2. Methodological Options and Current Practices (Jan. 20)

Collier, David and Colin Elman, "Qualitative and Multimethod Research: Organizations, Publication, and Reflections on Integration," pp. 779-95, in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, and David Collier (eds.), *Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology* (Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2008).

Franklin, Charles H., "Quantitative Methodology 796-813, in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, and David Collier (eds.), *Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology* (Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2008).

Aldrich, John H., James E. Alt, and Arthur Lupia, "The EITM Approach: Origins and Interpretations," pp. 828-43, in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, and David Collier (eds.), *Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology* (Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2008).

Bennett, Andrew, Aharan Barth, and Ken Rutherford, "Do We Practice What We Preach? A Survey of Methods in Political Science Journals and Curricula," *P.S.: Political Science and Politics* Vol. 36, N° 3 (July 2003): 373-78.

Part II. Concepts, Measures, and Descriptions

3. Some Basic Ideas about Concepts and Measures (Jan. 27)

Adcock, Robert N. and David Collier, "Measurement Validity: A Shared Standard for Qualitative and Quantitative Research," *American Political Science Review* Vol. 95, N° 3 (2001): 529-46.

Shively, *The Craft of Political Research*, Chs. 4 & 5, on "Problems of Measurement."

Shively, *The Craft of Political Research*, Ch. 3, on "Importance of Dimensional Thinking."

Barton, Allen H. "The Concept of Property Space in Social Research," pp. 40-53, in Paul F. Lazarsfeld and Morris Rosenberg (eds.), *The Language of Social Research* (Glencoe: Free Press, 1955).

Collier, David, Jody LaPorte, and Jason Seawright, "Typologies: Forming Concepts and Creating Categorical Variables" pp. 152-73, in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, and David Collier (eds.), *Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology* (Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2008).

4. Developing Simple and Composite Measures (Feb. 3)

Munck, Gerardo L. and Jay Verkuilen, "Conceptualizing and Measuring Democracy: An Evaluation of Alternative Indices," pp. 13-37 and 146-49, in Gerardo L. Munck, *Measuring Democracy: A Bridge Between Scholarship and Politics* (Baltimore, Md.: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2009).

Przeworski, Adam and Henry Teune, *The Logic of Comparative Social Inquiry* (New York: Wiley, 1970), Ch. 6, on "Establishing Equivalence."

Goertz, Gary, *Social Science Concepts: A User's Guide* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2006), Ch. 2, on "Structuring and Theorizing Concepts."

5. The HDI as an Example (Feb. 10)

UNDP, "Defining and Measuring Human Development," Ch. 1 in UNDP, *Human Development Report 1990* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1990).

Haq, Mahbub ul., "The Birth of the Human Development Index," pp. 127-37, in Sakiko Fukuda-Parr and Shiva AK Kumar (eds.), *Readings in Human Development: Concepts, Measures, and Policies for a Development* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003).

Fukuda-Parr, Sakiko, "Rescuing the Human Development Concept from the HDI: Reflections on a New Agenda," pp. 117-24, in Sakiko Fukuda-Parr and Shiva AK Kumar (eds.), *Readings in Human Development: Concepts, Measures, and Policies for a Development* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003).

UNDP, *Human Development Report 2006* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2006), read the technical note on the human development index (HDI) on pages 393-94 of the "Technical Note 1. Calculating the human development indices" and skim the data on the HDI on pages 283-86.

6. Unit Selection and Data Presentation (Feb. 17)

Kaye, David H., and David A. Freedman, "Reference Guide on Statistics," pp. 83-178, *Reference Manual on Scientific Evidence*, 2nd. ed. (Washington, DC: Federal Judicial Center, 2000); read section II. B. Descriptive Surveys and Censuses (pp. 98-102)

Graham Kalton, "Survey Sampling," pp. 8466-8474, in Samuel Kotz et al. (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Statistical Sciences* Volume 13, 2nd Ed. (NJ: Wiley: 2005). 1-2, 309-317

Kaye, David H., and David A. Freedman, "Reference Guide on Statistics," pp. 83-178, *Reference Manual on Scientific Evidence*, 2nd. ed. (Washington, DC: Federal Judicial Center, 2000); read section III. How Have the Data Been Presented? (pp. 104-15)

Wainer, Howard, "How to Display Data Badly," *The American Statistician* Vol. 38, N° 2 (May 1984): 137-47.

Kastellec, Jonathan P. and Eduardo L. Leoni, "Using Graphs Instead of Tables in Political Science," *Perspectives on Politics* Vo. 5, N° 4 (December 2007): 755-71. (Skip pages 763-68 on regression analyses)

Part III. Explanation, Causation and Causal Models

7. On Explanation and Causation (Feb. 24)

- Goldthorpe, John H., "Causation, Statistics, and Sociology," *European Sociological Review* Vol. 17, N° 1 (2001): 1-20, read pages 1-10 only.
- Brady, Henry, "Causation and Explanation in Social Science," pp. 217-70, in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, and David Collier (eds.), *Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology* (Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2008).
- Hedström, Peter and Richard Swedberg, "Social Mechanisms," *Acta Sociologica* Vol. 39, N° 3 (1996): 281-308.
- Elster, Jon, *Explaining Social Behavior: More Nuts and Bolts for the Social Sciences* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2007), Part I, "Explanations and Mechanisms," pp. 7-66.
- Bunge, Mario, "Mechanisms and Explanation," *Philosophy of the Social Sciences* Vol 27, N° 4 (1997): 410-65.

8. Varieties of Causal Models (March 3)

- Ragin, Charles, *The Comparative Method: Moving Beyond Qualitative and Quantitative Strategies* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1987), Ch. 2, on "Heterogeneity and Causal Complexity." [Read pages 19-26 only.]
- Braumoeller, Bear, "Causal Complexity and the Study of Politics," *Political Analysis* Vol. 11, N° 3 (2003): 209-333. [Read pages 209-15 only.]
- Abbott, Andrew "Transcending General Linear Reality," *Sociological Theory* 6, 2 (1988): 169-86.
- Abbott, Andrew, *Time Matters: On Theory and Method* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2001), Ch. 5, on "Conceptions of Time and Events in Social Science Methods."
- Pierson, Paul. "Big, Slow-Moving, and ... Invisible," pp. 177-207, in James Mahoney and Dietrich Rueschemeyer (eds.), *Comparative Historical Analysis in the Social Sciences* (New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 2003).

Part IV. Causal Theorizing and Assessment

9. The Experimental Tradition (March 10)

- Shively, *The Craft of Political Research*, Ch. 6.
- Morton, Rebecca B. and Kenneth C. Williams, "Experimentation in Political Science," pp. 339-56, in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, and David Collier (eds.), *Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology* (Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2008).
- Gould, Andrew C. and Andrew J. Maggio, "Democracy, Dictatorship, and Economic Development: A Model of Reference-Dependent Choices with Experimental Data," pp. 231-45, in Gerardo L. Munck (ed.), *Regimes and Democracy in Latin America. Theories and Methods* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007).
- Dunning, Thad, "Improving Causal Inference: Strengths and Limitations of Natural Experiments," *Political Research Quarterly* Vol. 61, N° 2 (2008): 282-93.

Spring Recess: March 16-21

10. The Quantitative Tradition I (March 24)

Shively, *The Craft of Political Research*, Chs. 8, 9 & 10.

11. The Quantitative Tradition II (March 31)

Freedman, David A., "From Association to Causation: Some Remarks on the History of Statistics," *Statistical Science* 14 (1999): 243–58.

Stoll, Heather, "Social Cleavages and the Number of Parties: How the Measures You Choose Affect the Answers You Get," *Comparative Political Studies* 41, 11 (2008): 1439-1465

Seawright, Jason, "Democracy and Growth: A Case Study in Failed Causal Inference," pp. 179-98, in Gerardo L. Munck (ed.), *Regimes and Democracy in Latin America. Theories and Methods* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007).

12. The Qualitative Tradition (April 7)

Lijphart, Arend, "Comparative Politics and the Comparative Method," *American Political Science Review* Vol. 65, N° 3 (1971): 682-93.

George, Alexander L. and Andrew Bennett, *Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2005), Ch. 1. "Case Studies and Theory Development," and Ch. 10, on "Process-Tracing and Historical Explanation."

Levy, Jack S., "Case Studies: Types, Designs, and Logics of Inference," *Conflict Management and Peace Science* Vol. 25, N° 1 (2008): 1–18.

Elman, Colin, "Explanatory Typologies in Qualitative Studies of International Politics," *International Organization* Vol. 59 N° 2 (Spring 2005): 293-326.

13. Combining the Quantitative and Qualitative Traditions (April 14)

Coppedge, Michael. "Thickening Thin Concepts and Theories: Combining Large N and Small in Comparative Politics," *Comparative Politics* Vol. 31, N° 4 (July 1999): 465-76.

Lieberman, Evan S., "Nested Analysis as a Mixed-Method Strategy for Comparative Research," *American Political Science Review* Vol. 99, N° 3 (August 2005): 435-52.

Rohlfing, Ingo, "What You See and What You Get. Pitfalls and Principles of Nested Analysis in Comparative Research," *Comparative Political Studies* Vol. 41, N° 11 (2008): 1492-1514.

Shively, *The Craft of Political Research*, Chs. 7.

Seawright, Jason and John Gerring. "Case-selection Techniques in Case Study Research: A Menu of Qualitative and Quantitative Options," *Political Research Quarterly* Vol. 61, N° 2 (2008): 294-308.

Part V. Conclusion

14. Debating Research Methods (April 21)

- King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane and Sidney Verba, *Designing Social Inquiry. Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1994), Ch. 1.
- Collier, David, Henry E. Brady and Jason Seawright “Sources of Leverage in Causal Inference: Toward an Alternative View of Methodology,” pp. 229-71, in Henry E. Brady and David Collier (eds.), *Rethinking Social Inquiry: Diverse Tools, Shared Standards* (Lanham, Md.: Rowman & Littlefield and the Berkeley Public Policy Press, 2004).
- Beck, Nathaniel, “Is Causal-Process Observation an Oxymoron?” *Political Analysis* Vol. 14, N° 3 (2006): 347-52.
- Brady, Henry E., David Collier and Jason Seawright, “Toward a Pluralistic Vision of Methodology,” *Political Analysis* Vol. 14, N° 3 (2006): 353–68.

15. Further Perspectives on Research Methods (April 28)

- Fearon, James and David D. Laitin, “Integrating Qualitative and Quantitative Methods,” pp. 756-76, in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, and David Collier (eds.), *Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology* (Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2008).
- Elster, Jon, *Explaining Social Behavior: More Nuts and Bolts for the Social Sciences* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2007), Conclusion, “Is Social Science Possible?” pp. 445-67.