

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Political Science 782

The Logic of Political Inquiry

Fall 2012

Monday 7:00 - 9:45

Prof. Gary Marks

Department of Political Science

(919) 962-0435 (office); (919) 929-8643 (home); marks@unc.edu

Office hours: Hamilton Hall 351

Tuesday 4:45 - 6:30pm; Thursday 4:45 – 6:00pm

Objectives

This course provides an overview of basic methodological questions relating to theory construction, conceptualization, operationalization, measurement, and theory evaluation. These questions are not limited to any particular field of political science, and this course is open to any graduate student who is framing or writing a doctoral dissertation. While the literature below assumes proficiency in statistics, the issues we will discuss are relevant to both quantitative and qualitative analysis. The course design does not shy away from fundamental epistemological issues, but the aim is practical – to deepen understanding of the basic methodological choices that we, as political scientists, must make.

The first part of the course engages issues of explanation in political science. If it is the case that facts cannot falsify theories, what is the purpose of theory testing? What then are the foundations, if any, of scientific progress in our discipline? Or should we conclude that theoretical and empirical models live in different worlds and can be evaluated only in terms of their “use value?” My own view is that scientific progress does not depend on falsificationism, and I believe that this is consistent with the history of political science. But opinions differ widely, and no-one has found evidence that can settle the matter. However, these are questions that confront all researchers, and the purpose of the course is to make you aware of assumptions that undergird our endeavors, but which are often taken for granted.

The second part of the course conceives method as a set of decisions made by the researcher over explanation, conceptualization, measurement, and data collection. We will take a “hands-on” approach with the aim of making you, as researchers, more aware of the trade-offs involved across methodological strategies. The third part of the course reviews some major explanatory strategies, focussing on their particular strengths and limitations.

The purpose of the course is to not to teach specific skills or procedures, but to put you in a stronger position to constructively critique the research of others and to make conscious methodological choices in your own work. “To have mastered method is to become a conscious thinker, a person at work and aware of the assumptions and implications of whatever she is about” (adapted from Sartori). I was recently a lone social scientist at a gathering of natural scientists, and the conversation turned to the possibility of a science of society. Most of the scientists present believed that they alone could produce falsifiable knowledge, but I think it is

possible to maintain that political science can do that too – though our task is more difficult. This course is designed in the belief that confronting fundamental methodological issues in our discipline may not only produce more thoughtful research, but may deepen the pleasure of discovery.

Requirements

- A. **A weekly paper** [60%] (three/four double-spaced pages), handed in at the beginning of class on the topic assigned for that week. You do not have to write a reaction paper for those weeks in which you introduce the discussion.
- B. **(Co-)lead the discussion** for two seminars [20%]. Collaborate with your co-discussant if you share responsibility that week. Distribute a one or two page summary of your questions and comments to the class prior to our meeting.
- C. **Participation in class discussion** [20%] . Active and thoughtful participation in class discussion (based on having done the readings in advance) are an essential part of this course. To ensure that everyone has a fair chance to contribute, I may call on students at times.

Readings

Many of the required readings are articles from journals that are available to you online via UNC's electronic journal holdings or bibliographic databases; most other readings, including unpublished manuscripts are available on the course website. All other readings are on reserve at library. In addition, you might consider ordering the following books, from which we read multiple chapters over the course of the semester:

- Brady, Henry E. and David Collier. *Rethinking Social Inquiry: Diverse Tools, Shared Standards*. 2nd edition. Lanham, MD: Roman and Littlefield, 2010.
- King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1994.
- Clarke, Kevin and David Primo. *A Model Discipline*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.

1: Introduction (Aug 27)

PART ONE: What are we doing?

2: Alternative approaches to explanation in social science (Sept 10)

"If you are out to describe the truth, leave elegance to the tailor."

Albert Einstein, on being reproached that his formula of gravitation was more cumbersome than Newton's.

Reading

Little, Daniel. *Varieties of Social Explanation: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Social Science* (Boulder: Westview, 1991), pp. 1-38.

King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. "Chapter 1: The Science in Social Science." *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1994: 3-33.

Friedman, Milton. "The Methodology of Positive Economics." In *Essays in Positive Economics*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1953: 3-43.

de Marchi, Scott. "Not All Fun and Games" [esp. "A Short Statement on Epistemology" incl. "Amendments" 1 and 2] In *Computational and Mathematical Modeling in the Social Sciences*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2005: esp.18-32.

Almond, Gabriel A. and Stephen Genco. "Clouds, Clocks, and the Study of Politics." In *A Discipline Divided: Schools and Sects in Political Science*, edited by Gabriel A. Almond. (First published in 1977 in *World Politics* vol.29 no.4 (July 1977): 489-522.). Newbury Park, CA: Sage, 1990: 32-65.

Background Reading

Weber, Max. "Science as a Vocation." In *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology*, translated, edited, and with an introduction by H. H. Gerth and C. Wright Mills. (First delivered as a lecture, "Wissenschaft als Beruf," for the Freistudentischer Bund, München, 1919.) New York: Oxford University Press, 1946: 129-156.

Geertz, Clifford. "Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture." In *The Interpretation of Culture: Selected Essays*. New York: Basic Books, 1973: 3-30.

Geertz, Clifford. "Ideology as a Cultural System" in Geertz, *The Interpretation of Cultures* (NY: Basic 1973), pp. 193-233.

Moon, Donald. "The Logic of Political Inquiry", in Fred Greenstein and Nelson Polsby, eds., *Handbook of Political Science* Vol. 1 (Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley Publishing, 1975), pp. 131-227.

Charles Taylor, "Interpretation and the Sciences of Man" *Review of Metaphysics* 25, 1 (September 1971), also in *Collected Papers*. Vol II. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 1985), pp. 15-57.

Keohane, Robert O. "Political Science as a Vocation." *PS: Political Science & Politics* vol.42 no.2 (April 2009): 359-364.

Blyth, Mark, and Robin Varghese. "The State of the Discipline in American Political Science: Be Careful What You Wish For." *British Journal of Politics and International Relations* vol.1 no.3 (October 1999): 345-366.

Jackson, Patrick Thaddeus. [Sections on 'The Demarcation Problem' and 'Science, Broadly Understood' from] "Playing with Fire" and "Philosophical Wagers." In *The Conduct of Inquiry in International Relations: Philosophy of Science and Its Implications for the Study of World Politics*. London – New York: Routledge, 2010: 10-23, 24-40.

Coase, R. H. "How Should Economists Choose?" (Paper presented as the Third G. Warren Nutter Lecture in Political Economy, American Enterprise Institute, 18 November 1981. First published as an AEI pamphlet in 1982.) In *Essays on Economics and Economists*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1994: 15-33.

Hirschman, Albert O. "Against Parsimony: Three Easy Ways of Complicating Some Categories of Economic Discourse." *American Economic Review* vol.74 no.2 (Papers and Proceedings, May 1984): 89-96.

Hall, Peter A. "Aligning Ontology and Methodology in Comparative Politics." In *Comparative Historical Analysis in the Social Sciences*, edited by James Mahoney and Dietrich Rueschemeyer. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003: 373-404.

Dasgupta, Partha. "What Do Economists Analyze and Why: Values or Facts?" *Economics and Philosophy* vol.21 no.2 (October 2005): 221-278.

Bernstein, Steven, et al. "God Gave Physics the Easy Problems: Adapting Social Science to an Unpredictable World." *European Journal of International Relations* vol.6 no.1 (March 2000): 43-76.

Sil, Rudra, and Peter J. Katzenstein. "Analytical Eclecticism," "Eclecticism, Pragmatism, and Paradigms in International Relations" and [selection from] "Global Political Economy." In *Beyond Paradigms: Analytic Eclecticism in the Study of World Politics*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010: 1-23, 24-48, 102-133.

Munck, Gerardo L. and Richard Snyder, eds., *Passion, Craft and Method in Comparative Politics*. (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2007).

Waltz, Kenneth. *Theory of International Politics* Reading: Addison-Wesley 1979) pp. 1-17.

Assignment: "Alternative approaches to explanation in social science"

Write a short essay on the debate over parsimony in political science. Einstein's aphorism is "Everything should be made as simple as possible, but not simpler." But how should this be interpreted? To what extent, and when, should researchers privilege simplicity as a goal of research? Is there a golden rule, or do the virtues of parsimony depend on context? Provide examples from a stream of political science literature that you are familiar with.

3: The foundations of scientific progress (Sept 17)

"No experimental result can ever kill a theory."

Imre Lakatos

Reading

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

Popper, Karl R. [Sections 1-6, 9-11, 12, 19-22, 79-85 of:] *The Logic of Scientific Discovery*. (First published in an earlier edition as *Logik der Forschung: Zur Erkenntnistheorie der modernen Naturwissenschaft*. Wien: J. Springer, 1935.) New York: Basic Books, 1959: 27-42, 49-56, 59-62, 251-281.

Kuhn, Thomas. *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1970), 2nd edition, Chs. 2-6, 8-10, 12-13, parts of the Postscript. (i.e. pp. 1-65, 77-135, 144-173, 198-210).

Clarke, Kevin and David Primo. *A Model Discipline* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012): 1-15; Ch. 2; 62-77; 83-103; Chs.5, 6, and 7.

Background Reading

Wittgenstein, Ludwig. *Philosophical Investigations*. 3rd edition. New York: Macmillan, 1958.

Vasquez, John A. "The Realist Paradigm and Degenerative versus Progressive Research Programs: An Appraisal of Neotraditional Research on Waltz's Balancing Proposition," *American Political Science Review*, 91, 4 (December 1997), 899-912.

Geertz, Clifford. "Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese Cockfight." *Daedalus* vol.101 no.1 (Winter 1972): 1-37 [Reprinted in various places, incl. in Geertz, *The Interpretation of Culture* and in Rabinow and Sullivan, *Interpretive Social Science*, 1979/1986.]

Geertz, Clifford. *Local Knowledge: Further Essays in Interpretive Anthropology*. 2nd edition. New York: Basic Books, 2000.

Winch, Peter. *The Idea of Social Science and Its Relation to Philosophy*. 2nd edition. London: Routledge, 1990.

Lakatos, Imre, and Paul Feyerabend. *For and Against Method: Including Lakatos' Lectures on Scientific Method and the Lakatos-Feyerabend Correspondence*, edited and with an Introduction by Matteo Motterlini. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1999.

Hall, Peter A. "The Dilemmas of Contemporary Social Science," *boundary 2* 34,3 (2007): 121-41.

Geddes, Barbara. "Research Design and the Accumulation of Knowledge." In *Paradigms and Sand Castles: Theory Building and Research Design in Comparative Politics*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2003: 1-26.

Elman, Colin and Miriam Fendius Elman. "How Not to Be Lakatos Intolerant: Appraising Progress in IR Research." *International Studies Quarterly* vol.46 no.2 (June 2002): 231-262.

Feyerabend, Paul. [Preface, Introduction, Chapters 1-5, 14, 15, 17 of:] *Against Method*. (First published in 1975.) 3rd ed. London: Verso, 1993: viif, 9-53, 135-158, 214-229.

Shapiro, Ian. "Problems, Methods, and Theories in the Study of Politics: Or, What's Wrong with Political Science and What to Do About It." In *Perestroika! The Raucous Rebellion in Political Science*, edited by Kristen Renwick Monroe. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2005: 66-86, esp. 71-83 (sections C, D, and E).

Caldwell, B. J. "Contemporary Philosophy of Science: The Growth of Knowledge Tradition." In *Beyond Positivism: Economic Methodology in the Twentieth Century*. London-Boston: G. Allen & Unwin, 1984: 68-96.

Ball, Terence. "From Paradigms to Research Programs: Toward a Post-Kuhnian Political Science." *American Journal of Political Science* vol.20 no.1 (February 1976): 151-177.

Hirschman, Albert O. "The Search for Paradigms as a Hindrance to Understanding." *World Politics* vol.22 no.3 (April 1970): 329-343.

Hirschman, Albert O. "Against Parsimony: Three Easy Ways of Complicating some Categories of Economic Discourse." *Economics and Philosophy* 1(April 1985): 7-21.

Moon, J. Donald. "The Logic of Political Inquiry: A Synthesis of Opposed Perspectives." In *Handbook of Political Science*, vol.1, edited by Fred I. Greenstein and Nelson W. Polsby. Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley, 1975: 131-228, esp. 195ff

DiCicco, Jonathan M., and Jack S. Levy. "Power Shifts and Problem Shifts: The Evolution of the Power Transition Research Program." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* vol.43 no.6 (December 1999): 675-704.

Vasquez, John. "The Post-Positivist Debate: Reconstructing Scientific Enquiry and International Relations Theory After Enlightenment's Fall." In *International Relations Theory Today*, edited by Ken Booth and Steve Smith. University Park (PA): Pennsylvania State University Press, 1995: 217-240.

Assignment: "The foundations of scientific progress"

Write a short essay on A) or B).

A) Which conception of scientific development best captures the trajectory of a line of research with which you are familiar: that of Popper, Kuhn, or Lakatos?

B) Identify a Lakatosian research program in political science. Carefully specify its "hard core" and its "protective belt" of auxiliary hypotheses. Has this line of research followed a progressive or a degenerating problem-shift?

4: Choosing Questions (Sept 24)

"Half of science is putting forth the right questions."

Sir Francis Bacon

". . .when radium was discovered no one knew that it would prove useful in hospitals."

Marie Curie

Reading

King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. "Chapter 1: The *Science* in Social Science." In *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1994): 12-19.

Rogowski, Ronald. "The Role of Theory and Anomaly in Social-Scientific Inference." *American Political Science Review* vol.89 no.2 (June 1995): 467-470. Reprinted in *Rethinking Social Inquiry: Diverse Tools, Shared Standards*, edited by Henry E. Brady and David Collier. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2004: 75-83.

Geddes, Barbara. "Big Questions, Little Answers: How the Questions You Choose Affect the Answer You Get." *Paradigms and Sand Castles: Theory Building and Research Design in Comparative Politics*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2003: 27-88.

Background Reading

Tilly, Charles. "Chapter 1: Why Give Reasons?" In *Why?* Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2006: 1-31.

Solnick, Steven. "On the Road to a Completed Dissertation: Potholes and Roadkill." Mimeo, Columbia University, June 1998.

Bates, Robert H. *et al.* Section on "Analytic Narratives." In *Analytic Narratives*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1998: 10-18.

Assignment: "Choosing Questions"

The literature on choosing questions describes the many ways in which the researcher can select a good research question. If there are many ways to select good research questions, there must also be many ways to select poor research questions. Write an essay in which you discuss one or two examples of published research that, in your view, seek to provide answers to poorly selected questions.

PART TWO: THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THEORY AND THE EMPIRICAL WORLD

5: Framing the conceptual terrain (Oct 1)

“The human mind has first to construct forms, independently, before we can find them in things.”

Albert Einstein

Reading

King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. "Chapter 2: Descriptive Inference." *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1994: 34-71.

Sartori, Giovanni. "Concept Misformation in Comparative Politics," *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 64, No. 4 (Dec., 1970), 1033-1053.

Shively, W. Phillips. *The Craft of Political Research*, 6th ed, (Prentice Hall, 2005): 12-70.

Goertz, Gary. "Chapter 2: Structuring and Theorizing Concepts." In *Social Science Concepts: A User's Guide*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2006: 27-67.

Background Reading

Munck, Gerardo L. and Jay Verkuilen. "Conceptualizing and Measuring Democracy." *Comparative Political Studies* vol.35 no.1 (February 2002): 5-34.

Collier, David and Steven Levitsky. "Democracy With Adjectives: Conceptual Innovation in Comparative Research." *World Politics* vol.49 no.3 (April 1997): 430-451.

Collier, David, Jody LaPorte and Jason Seawright. "Putting Typologies to Work : Concept Formation, Measurement, and Analytic Rigor." *Political Research Quarterly* vol. 65 no. 1 (2012): 217–232.

Babbie, Earl. "Indexes, Scales, and Typologies." In *The Basics of Social Research*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing Company, 1999: 144-168.

Elman, Colin. "Explanatory Typologies in Qualitative Studies of International Politics." *International Organization* vol.59 no.2 (Spring 2005): 293-326.

MacIntyre, Alasdair. "Is a Science of Comparative Politics Possible?" in Paul Lewis et al., eds., *The Practice of Comparative Politics*, 2nd ed. (NY: Longman 1978): 266-84.

Goertz, Gary. *Social Science Concepts: A User's Guide*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2006.

Assignment: "Framing the conceptual terrain"

Select a basic concept that is important in your research (e.g. democracy; power; authority). To what extent is the concept contested, and why? What are the challenges of conceptualizing an abstract political phenomenon? What are the advantages of more or less abstract concepts, and at what point does conceptual stretching become unwarranted?

6: Measurement issues (Oct 8)

"Whenever you can, count."

Sir Francis Galton

Reading

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

Bollen Kenneth A. and Pamela Paxton, "Detection and determinants of bias in subjective measures," *American Sociological Review*, 63, 3 (June 1998), 465-478.

Leuffen, Dirk, Susumu Shikano and Stefanie Walter, "Measurement and Data Aggregation in Small-N Social Scientific Research," *European Political Science* (forthcoming 2012).

King, Gary, Christopher J. L. Murray, Joshua Salomon, and Ajay Tandon. "Enhancing the Validity and Cross-Cultural Comparability of Measurement in Survey Research." *American Political Science Review* vol.98 no.1 (February 2004): 191-207.

Marks, Gary, Liesbet Hooghe, Marco Steenbergen, and Ryan Bakker, "Cross-Validating Data on Party Positioning on European Integration," *Electoral Studies*, 26, 1 (2007), 23-38.

Background Reading

Sarle, Warren S. "Measurement theory: Frequently asked questions," Version 3, (September 14, 1997). URL: <ftp://ftp.sas.com/pub/neural/measurement.html>

Jackman, Simon. "Measurement." In *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, ed. Janet Box-Steffensmeier, Henry Brady and David Collier. Oxford University Press, 2008.

Jackman, Simon. "On Measuring Democracy and Things Like That." Unpublished paper, 2009.

Elkins, Zachary. "Gradations of Democracy? Empirical Tests of Alternative Conceptualizations." *American Journal of Political Science* vol.44 no.2 (April 2000): 293-300.

Treier, Shawn and Simon Jackman. "Democracy as a Latent Variable." *American Journal of Political Science* vol.52 no.1 (January 2008): 201-217.

Goertz, Gary, and James Mahoney, "Concepts and measurement: Ontology and epistemology." *Social Science*

Information vol. 51 no. 2 (2012): 205–216.

Zeller, Richard A., and Edward G. Carmines. 1980. *Measurement in the Social Sciences: The Link between Theory and Data*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Steenbergen, Marco R., and Gary Marks. Evaluating Expert Judgments. *European Journal of Political Research* Vol. 46 No. 3 (2007): 347–66.

Verba, Sidney. "Cross-National Survey Research: The Problem of Credibility" in Ivan Vallier, ed., *Comparative Methods in Sociology* (Berkeley: University of California Press 1971), pp. 309-56.

Krosnick, Jon A., and Duane F. Alwin. "An Evaluation of a Cognitive Theory of Response-Order Effects in Survey Measurement." *Public Opinion Quarterly* Vol.51 No.2 (Summer 1987): 201-219.

Saris, Willem E., and Paul M. Sniderman, eds. *Studies in Public Opinion: Attitudes, Nonattitudes, Measurement Error, and Change*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2004: esp. chs. 1, 12.

Bradburn, Norman M., and Carrie Miles. "Vague Quantifiers." *Public Opinion Quarterly* vol.43 no.1 (Spring 1979): 92-101.

Krosnick, Jon A. "The Polls, a Review: Question Wording and Reports of Survey Results: The Case of Louis Harris and Associates and Aetna Life and Casualty." *Public Opinion Quarterly* vol.53 no.1 (Spring 1989): 107-113.

Neijens, Danielle. "Coping with the Nonattitudes Phenomenon: A Survey Research Approach." In *Studies in Public Opinion: Attitudes, Nonattitudes, Measurement Error, and Change*, edited by Willem E. Saris and Paul M. Sniderman. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2004: 295-313.

Hooghe, Liesbet, Gary Marks and Arjan H. Schakel. *The Rise of Regional Authority: a comparative study of 42 democracies (1950-2006)*. London: Routledge, 2010.

Marks, Gary. "Triangulation and the Square Root Law." *Electoral Studies*, Vol. 26, No. 1 (2007): 1-10.

Assignment: "Measurement issues"

Select a basic concept that you wish to measure in your research. What are the chief decisions that need to be made concerning its operationalization and estimation? What do those decisions depend on? What alternative decisions might one make? Do those decisions affect the validity of your findings?

7: Gathering Data (Oct 15)

"I see nobody on the road," said Alice.

"I only wish I had such eyes," the King remarked in a fretful tone. "To be able to see Nobody! And at that distance too! Why, it's as much as I can do to see real people, by this light"

Lewis Carroll

Reading

Benoit, Kenneth and Michael Laver, *Party Policy in Modern Democracies*, Routledge, 2006, chapter 3.

Kinder, Donald R. and Thomas R. Palfrey, "On Behalf of an Experimental Political Science." In Donald R. Kinder and Thomas R. Palfrey (eds.), *Experimental Foundations of Political Science*, Michigan, 1993, 1-39.

Buttolph Johnson, Janet and Richard A. Joslyn, *Political Science Research Methods*, 5th ed., CQ Press, 2005, chapter 10.

Aberbach, Joel D., and Bert A. Rockman. "Conducting and Coding Elite Interviews." *PS: Political Science and Politics* vol.35 no.4 (December 2002): 673-676.

Berry, Jeffrey M. "Validity and Reliability Issues in Elite Interviewing." *PS: Political Science and Politics* vol.35 no.4 (December 2002): 679-682.

Woliver, Laura R. "Ethical Dilemmas in Personal Interviewing." *PS: Political Science and Politics* vol.35 no.4 (December 2002): 677-678.

Habyarimana, James et al, "Why Does Ethnic Diversity Undermine Public Goods Provision?" *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 101, No. 4 November 2007, 709-725.

Background Reading

Babbie, Earl. "The Logic of Sampling." In *The Basics of Social Research*. 12th edition. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing Company, 2010: 187-227.

Lohr, Sharon L. "Appendix A: Probability Concepts Used in Sampling." In *Sampling: Design and Analysis*. Boston: Brooks/Cole, 2010: 549-562.

Lohr, Sharon L. *Sampling: Design and Analysis*. 2nd edition. Boston: Brooks/Cole, 2010.

Becker, Howard S. "Sampling." In *Tricks of the Trade: How to Think About Your Research While You're Doing It*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1998: 67-108.

Hooghe, Liesbet. *The European Commission and The Integration of Europe: Images of Governance* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001).

Bradburn, Norman, Seymour Sudman, and Brian Wansink. "1: The Social Context of Question Asking;" "11: Questionnaires From Start to Finish;" [and] "10: Organizing and Designing Questionnaires." In *Asking Questions: The Definite Guide to Questionnaire Design for Market Research, Political Polls, and Social and Health Questionnaires*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2004: 3-31; 315-322; 283-314.

Weisberg, Herbert F., Jon A. Krosnick, and Bruce D. Bowen. "4. Questionnaire Construction." In *An Introduction to Survey Research and Data Analysis*. Glenview, IL: Scott, Foresman, 1996: 77-102.

Bradburn, Norman, Seymour Sudman, and Brian Wansink. "5: Asking and Recording Open-Ended and Closed-Ended Questions." In *Asking Questions: The Definite Guide to Questionnaire Design for Market Research, Political Polls, and Social and Health Questionnaires*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2004: 151-177.

Krosnick, Jon A., and Duane F. Alwin. "An Evaluation of a Cognitive Theory of Response-Order Effects in Survey Measurement." *Public Opinion Quarterly* vol.51 no.2 (Summer 1987): 201-219.

Alwin, Duane F., and Jon A. Krosnick. "The Measurement of Values in Surveys: A Comparison of Ratings and Rankings." *Public Opinion Quarterly* vol.49 no.4 (Winter 1985): 535-552.

Lynn, Peter. "The Problem of Nonresponse." In *International Handbook of Survey Methodology*, edited by Edith D. de Leeuw, Joop J. Hox, and Don A. Dillman. New York: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 2008: 35-55.

Saris, Willem E., and Paul M. Sniderman, eds. *Studies in Public Opinion: Attitudes, Nonattitudes, Measurement Error, and Change*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2004: esp. chs. 1, 12.

Bradburn, Norman M., and Carrie Miles. "Vague Quantifiers." *Public Opinion Quarterly* vol.43 no.1 (Spring 1979): 92-101.

Krosnick, Jon A. "The Polls, a Review: Question Wording and Reports of Survey Results: The Case of Louis Harris and Associates and Aetna Life and Casualty." *Public Opinion Quarterly* vol.53 no.1 (Spring 1989): 107-113.

Neijens, Danielle. "Coping with the Nonattitudes Phenomenon: A Survey Research Approach." In *Studies in Public Opinion: Attitudes, Nonattitudes, Measurement Error, and Change*, edited by Willem E. Saris and Paul M. Sniderman. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2004: 295-313.

King, Gary, Christopher J. L. Murray, Joshua Salomon, and Ajay Tandon. "Enhancing the Validity and Cross-Cultural Comparability of Measurement in Survey Research." *American Political Science Review* vol.98 no.1 (February 2004): 191-207.

Martin, Cathie Jo. "Using Interviews in the Search for Cause and Effect: The Power of Mixed-Methods Research Design." In *Interview Research in Political Science*, edited by Layna Mosley. Manuscript, September 2011: 141-167.

Weiss, Robert S. "Introduction." In *Learning from Strangers: The Art and Method of Qualitative Interview Studies*. New York: Free Press, 1994: 1-14.

Goldstein, Kenneth. "Getting in the Door: Sampling and Completing Elite Interviews." *PS: Political Science and Politics* vol.35 no.4 (December 2002): 669-672.

Leech, Beth L. "Asking Questions: Techniques for Semistructured Interviews." *PS: Political Science and Politics* vol.35 no.4 (December 2002): 665-668.

Weiss, Robert S. [Selections from:] "Preparation for Interviewing;" "Interviewing;" [and] "Appendix C: Sources of Bias and Their Control;" In *Learning from Strangers: The Art and Method of Qualitative Interview Studies*. New York: Free Press, 1994: 39-42, 53-59; 61-83 (skim 83-119); 211-213.

Assignment: "Gathering Data"

Identify a political science question that might be addressed through an experiment. Elaborate how you might conduct the experiment (e.g. in a survey, laboratory, participant observation, or interview). What precisely would you seek to observe? How would you implement the experiment? How might the scientific implications of your experiment for theory be challenged?

PART THREE: EXPLANATORY STRATEGY

8: The challenge of inferring causation (Oct 22)

"In the strict formulation of the law of causality—if we know the present, we can calculate the future—it is not the conclusion that is wrong but the premise."

Werner Heisenberg

Reading

Mackie, J. L. "Causes and Conditions." *American Philosophical Quarterly* vol.2 no.4 (October 1965):245-264.

Elster, Jon. "Mechanisms." *Nuts and Bolts for the Social Sciences*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1989: 3-12.

Holland, Paul W. "Statistics and Causal Inference." [+ Discussion] *Journal of the American Statistical Association* vol.81 no.396 (December 1986): 945-970.

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Assignment: "The challenge of inferring causation"

Select a published article that advances a causal argument and which you regard as a major contribution to a field of political science. Identify the central causal argument, the implicit or explicit counterfactual, and the hypothesized causal mechanism(s) in a way that is accessible to a reader who has not read the article you select. Provide a constructive criticism of the research design, focusing on issues of causal inference.

9: Large-N Approaches (Oct 29)

"With three parameters, I can fit an elephant."

Lord Kelvin

Reading

Goldthorpe, John H. "Causation, Statistics and Sociology," *European Sociological Review* 17, 1 (2001): 1-20.

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Jackson, John. "Political Methodology: An Overview" in Robert Goodin and Hans-Dieter Klingeman, eds., *A New Handbook of Political Science* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996: 717-748.

Dogan, Mattei. "The Use and Misuse of Statistics in Comparative Politics" in Mattei Dogan and Ali Kazanufi, eds., *Comparing Nations*. Oxford: Blackwell 1994: 35-70.

Lieberson, Stanley. *Making it Count*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1985.

Assignment: "Large-N Approaches"

Compare two large-N quantitative methods that have been used in an attempt to solve a puzzle in the field of your dissertation. Compare their strengths and limitations. How do assumptions of the methods differ, and how does this affect the data that they generate?

10: Case study (Nov 5)

"Every simple statement is false. Every complex statement is useless."

Paul Valéry

Reading

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Ragin, Charles. *The Comparative Method*, University of California Press, 1986, chapters 3 and 4.

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Assignment: "Case study"

Discuss a paper or book in your field of study that adopts a case study approach to solve a fundamental puzzle. How successful is it? To what extent is its success or failure related to its small-N research design?

11: Formal Models (Nov 12)

"The purpose of models is not to fit the data but to sharpen the questions."

Samuel Karlin

Reading

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Katznelson, Ira. "Structure and Configuration in Comparative Politics" in Mark Lichbach and Alan Zuckerman, eds., *Comparative Politics: Rationality, Culture and Structure* (NY: Cambridge University Press 1997): 81-112.

Tsebelis, George. "Elite Interaction and Constitution Building in Consociational Democracies," *Journal of Theoretical Politics* 1990; 2; 5-29.

Assignment: "Formal models "

Green and Shapiro's critique of formal modeling has generated a lively debate. Write an essay in which you characterize what you consider to be the main points of contention. Are the standards to which Green and Shapiro hold rational choice models appropriate?

12. Set Analysis (Nov 19)

Frustra fit per plura, quod fieri potest per pauciora.

William of Ockham

Reading

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Ragin, Charles C. *Redesigning Social Inquiry: Fuzzy Sets and Beyond*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008, esp. chs. 1, 2, 5-7, 11.

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Becker, Howard S. "Cases, Causes, Conjunctures, Stories and Imagery" in Charles C. Ragin and Howard S. Becker, eds., *What is a Case?* (NY: Cambridge University Press 1992): 205-216.

Assignment: "Set Analysis"

Compare the strengths and limitations of crisp-set analysis and fuzzy-set analysis using examples where possible.

13: Process tracing and mixed strategies (Nov 26)

*He who seeks for methods without having a definite problem in mind
seeks for the most part in vain.*

David Hilbert

Reading

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Tufte, Edward R. *Visual Explanations: Images and Quantities, Evidence and Narrative*. Cheshire, CT: Graphics Press, 1997.

Assignment: "Process tracing and mixed strategies"
None this week.