COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course examines the case study method for doing social science. The strengths and weaknesses of this approach will be considered, with particular attention placed on the mechanics of doing case studies.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Every student is expected to do all the reading and attend all the class meetings. Each student is also expected to participate in seminar discussions. Grades will be based on classroom participation (25%), and three five page papers (25% each).

The papers will be due at the beginning of class on February 17, February 24, and March 3, and will discuss the specific book assigned for those class meetings. Each paper should be double-spaced, with 1-inch margins, and utilize a standard size font.

The following books are available for purchase at the Seminary Coop Bookstore:


Stephen Van Evera, Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science (Cornell)

COURSE OUTLINE

1. January 6: Organizational Meeting and Introduction

2. January 13: Basic Epistemological Issues


4. January 27: Case Studies and Theory-I


5. February 3: Case Studies and Theory-II


6. February 10: Case Studies and Theory-III.


7. February 17: Critiques and Rejoinders


F. Douglas Dion, "Evidence and Inference in the Comparative Case Study," Comparative Politics 30, No. 2 (January 1998), pp. 127-146.


8. February 24: Doing Case Studies-I [PAPER #1 DUE]


9. March 3: Doing Case Studies-II [PAPER #2 DUE]


10. March 10: Doing Case Studies-III [PAPER #3 DUE]