

International Relations 513

Social Scientific and Historical Research Methods

Spring 2007

When: Tu 5:30-8:20 pm
Where: SOS B40
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 (8 three page, double-spaced, papers; worth a total of 50% of the final grade). These papers should summarize the key issues in the assigned readings and highlight their significance and implications for research practices.

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.

3. Books to Purchase

Regarding the readings, articles, which make up much of the readings, will be made available for photocopying. In addition, the following required books can be purchased at the university bookstore.

W. Phillips Shively, *The Craft of Political Research* 6th edition (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2004).

Part I. Introduction

1. Doing Research (Jan. 9)

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

2. Methodological Options and Current Practices (Jan. 16)

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.

Long, James D., Daniel Maliniak, Susan Peterson, and Michael J. Tierney, "Teaching and Research in International Politics: Surveying Trends in Faculty Opinion and Publishing," Prepared for the 46th Annual Convention of the International Studies Association, March 1-5, 2005, Honolulu, Hawaii.

Munck, Gerardo L. and Richard Snyder, "Debating the Direction of Comparative Politics: An Analysis of Leading Journals," *Comparative Political Studies* 40, 1 (2007): 5-31.

Part II. Description

3. Some Basic Ideas about Concepts and Measures (Jan. 23)

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*, Ch. 3, on "The 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).

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

4. Indicators, Indices and Validation (Jan. 30)

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

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."

Bollen, Kenneth and Richard Lennox, "Conventional Wisdom on Measurement: A Structural Equation Perspective," *Psychological Bulletin* Vol. 110, N° 2 (1991): 305-14.

Campbell, Donald T. and D. W. Fiske, "Convergent and Discriminant Validation by the Multitrait-Multimethod Matrix," *Psychological Bulletin* Vol. 56, N° 2 (1959): 81-105. [Focus on the method presented on pages 81-85 and the "Discussion" section on pages 100-04.]

5. Sampling and Data Presentation (Feb. 6)

Handwerker, W. Penn, "Sample Design," pp. 429-36, in Kimberly Kempf-Leonard (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Social Measurement* Vol. 3 (San Diego, Cal.: Academic Press, 2005).

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

Wilkinson, Leland, "Presentation Graphics," pp. 6369-79, in Neil J. Smelser and Paul B. Bates (eds.), *International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences* Vol. 9 (New York: Elsevier Science, 2001).

Wainer, Howard and Ian Spence, "Graphical Presentation of Longitudinal Data," pp. 762-72, in Brian S. Everitt and David C. Howell (eds.), *Encyclopedia of Statistics in Behavioral Sciences* Vol. 2 (Chichester, UK: John Wiley & Sons, Ltd, 2005).

6. The HDI as an Example (Feb. 13)

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 383-84 of the "Technical Note 1. Calculating the human development indices" and the section on the data sources used in the HDI on pages 276-79 of the part entitled "Table 1: about the human development index." Finally see the data on the HDI on pages 283-86.

Part III. Causation and Causal Models

7. On Causality (Feb. 20)

Goldthorpe, John H., "Causation, Statistics, and Sociology," *European Sociological Review* Vol. 17, N° 1 (2001): 1-20, read pages 1-10 only.

Brady, Henry, "Models of Causal Inference: Going Beyond the Neyman-Rubin-Holland Theory," University of California, Berkeley, March 30, 2002.

Hedström, Peter and Richard Swedberg, "Social Mechanisms," *Acta Sociologica* Vol. 39, N° 3 (1996): 281-308.

Elster, Jon, "A Plea for Mechanisms," pp. 45-73, in Peter Hedström and Richard Swedberg (eds.) *Social Mechanisms. An Analytical Approach to Social Theory* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1998).

8. Varieties of Causal Models (Feb. 27)

- 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.
- Most, Benjamin A. and Harvey Starr, “Basic Logic and Research Design: Conceptualization, Case Selection, and the Form of Relationships,” pp. 25-45, in Gary Goertz and Harvey Starr (eds.), *Necessary Conditions: Theory, Methodology, and Applications* (Lanham, Md.: Rowman & Littlefield, 2003).
- 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 6)

- Shively, *The Craft of Political Research*, Ch. 6.
- McGraw, Kathleen M. “Political Methodology: Research Design and Experimental Methods,” pp. 769-86, in Robert E. Goodin and Hans-Dieter Klingemann (eds.), *A New Handbook of Political Science* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1996).
- Campbell, Donald T. and Julian C. Stanley, *Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs for Research* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1966).

10. The Quantitative Tradition I (March 20)

- Shively, *The Craft of Political Research*, Chs. 7, 8 & 9.

11. The Quantitative Tradition II (March 27)

- Freedman, David A., “From Association to Causation: Some Remarks on the History of Statistics,” *Statistical Science* 14 (1999): 243–58
- Braumoeller, Bear F. and Anne E. Sartori, “Introduction: Statistical Analysis in International Relations Research,” in Detlef Sprinz and Yael Wolinsky (eds.), *Models, Numbers, Cases. The Analysis of International Relations* (Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press, 2004).
- Krieckhaus, Jonathan, “The Regime Debate Revisted: A Sensitivity Analysis of Democracy’s Economic Effect,” *British Journal of Political Science* Vol. 34, N° 4 (2004): 635-55.
- Seawright, Jason, “Democracy and Growth: A Case Study in Failed Causal Inference,” Chapter 7 in Gerardo L. Munck (ed.), *Regimes and Democracy in Latin America. Theories and Methods* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007).
- McGuire, William J. “Creative Hypothesis Generating in Psychology: Some Useful Heuristics,” *Annual Review of Psychology* Vol. 48 (1997): 1-30.

12. The Qualitative Tradition I (April 3)

- Lijphart, Arend, "Comparative Politics and the Comparative Method," *American Political Science Review* Vol. 65, N° 3 (1971): 682-93.
- Collier, David, "The Comparative Method," pp. 105-19, in Ada W. Finifter (ed.), *Political Science: The State of the Discipline II* (Washington, D.C.: The American Political Science Association, 1993).
- George, Alexander L. "Case Studies and Theory Development: The Method of Structured, Focused Comparison," pp. 43-68, in Paul Gordon Lauren (ed.), *Diplomacy: New Approaches in History, Theory and Policy* (New York: Free Press, 1979).
- George, Alexander L. and Andrew Bennett, *Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2005), Ch. 10, on "Process-Tracing and Historical Explanation."

13. The Qualitative Tradition II (April 10)

- Bartolini, Stefano, "On Time and Comparative Research," *Journal of Theoretical Politics* Vol. 5, N° 2 (1993): 131-67.
- Mahoney, James, "Strategies of Causal Inference in Small-N Research," *Sociological Methods and Research* Vol. 28, N° 4 (2000): 387-424.
- Bennett, Andrew and Colin Elman, "Qualitative Research: Recent Developments in Case Study Methods," *Annual Review of Political Science* Vol. 9 (2006): 455-76.
- Gerring, John. "What is a Case Study and What is it Good For?" *American Political Science Review* Vol. 98, N° 2 (2004): 341-54.

Part V. Conclusion

14. Debating Research Methods (April 17)

- 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.
- Beck, Nathaniel, "Causal Process "Observation": Oxymoron or Old Wine," Department of Politics; New York University, December 23, 2006.

15. Further Perspectives on Research Methods (April 24)

- Mahoney, James, and Gary Goertz. "A Tale of Two Cultures: Contrasting Quantitative and Qualitative Research," *Political Analysis* Vol. 14, N° 3 (2006): 227-49.
- 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.
- Munck, Gerardo L. and Jay Verkuilen, "Research Designs," pp. 385-95, in Kimberly Kempf-Leonard (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Social Measurement* Vol. 3 (San Diego, Cal.: Academic Press, 2005).