

POLITICAL ANALYSIS

PO840, 2012

John Gerring

232 Bay State Road, rm 300

kgerring@bu.edu; 353-2756

Office hrs: ??

(I am also generally available after class)

This course provides an introduction to methodological issues faced in empirical work across the social sciences, with primary reference to political science. The issues addressed here are intended to apply to any empirical approach – qualitative or quantitative, experimental or observational – and to any sort of theory, whether descriptive or causal. That said, the emphasis of the course is primarily on causal inference (rather than description) and the explanation of classes of events (rather than particular events), since these are the preoccupations of social science today.

This is not a course in statistics. However, it will be very helpful to have some familiarity with this important set of topics. If you have not already taken PO841, you might consider browsing through an introductory text on the subject.

Because of confusion in the past it is necessary to underline the following point. Although this course is conducted in prose (there is no software and very little math) it is manifestly not about qualitative methods. In my opinion, there are very few methodological issues that are exclusively qualitative or quantitative in nature. Therefore, this course is about methodology. Period.

The course is designed primarily for graduate students. Qualified undergraduates may also be considered if circumstances warrant, but must receive the permission of the instructor. Students are advised to take this class in their first semester, as the ground covered here will be useful for substantive work in all subfields (except Political Theory). There are no pre-requisites, although the student is assumed to have a background in political science.

GRADES

Your grade for this class will be comprised of three components, equally weighted: (a) participation (serving as class discussant at one meeting, presenting your own proposal at another meeting, attendance, and general class discussion); (b) a final exam; and (c) an original research proposal. Instructions regarding the proposal are contained in a separate document, to be posted on the course web site.

ABSENCES

Since the class meets a limited number of times throughout the semester, only *one* excused absence will be granted. I shall overlook the first class meeting, which is largely organizational; further absences will be penalized. Late papers will also be penalized. No excused absences, makeups, extensions, or incompletes will be granted without documentation of medical, religious or personal reasons, or for official Boston University business. If you will be missing class for religious reasons you must inform me of these dates *during the first week of class*.

MINI-LECTURES

I will begin most class meetings with a mini-lecture. Although I generally prefer not to lecture in graduate-level courses, there was some demand for this in the last iteration of the course. We'll see how it goes. (I will also try to conclude each meeting with a brief wrap-up of the "take-home" messages, along with a brief glance ahead to the readings for the following week.) In any case, the lectures are intended to supplement, not

replace, that week's readings. Indeed, there is no way that I can present all the important material in lecture format. There is simply too much of it. Nor would it be helpful for me to spoon-feed the information to you. So, make sure that you do the reading carefully (don't depend on me to synthesize it) and ask questions about subjects raised in the readings that you do not understand. I will endeavor to explain them, or direct you to more specialized readings.

CLASS PARTICIPATION

Whether this course is enlightening or not will depend primarily upon how students contribute to the process. I expect active participation from all students in every session – beyond the mandatory presentations. I will not lecture extensively. Nor do I intend to act as quiz-master, eliciting points. I will play this role if necessary, though I am hoping that the discussants will relieve me of this burden. To reiterate: you must participate regularly in order to get a good grade in this class. Shyness, or unfamiliarity with the English language, is no excuse. This is a talking profession. Yadayadayada. Please be attentive to standard rules of decorum: avoid dogmatism, respect others' views, and try to move class discussion forward (pay attention to what others say and respond to the previous point).

DISCUSSANT

Each person will be responsible (singly or in tandem with someone else) for leading class discussion for one or two meetings. Your job is to raise questions, to correct mistakes (or at least offer your own opinion, when you have a different interpretation), and in general to ensure that everyone understands the issues raised by the readings for that week. In other words, you're the instructor. I must emphasize that *this does not let others off the hook for doing careful reading that week*. No free-riding.

PRESENTING YOUR PROPOSAL IN CLASS

At the beginning of the semester you will sign up to present your proposal at a specific class meeting. Only one student will present at each class meeting so we need to space these presentations out over the course of the semester. The advantage of going early in the semester is that it will force you to get started and you will get our feedback at an early stage. The disadvantage, evidently, is that you will have less time to construct your proposal.

In any case, what you present to us is up to you. Keep in mind that the more finished this product is, the better, and more useful, our feedback will be. If you present only a paragraph then you'll have to spend most of the time telling us more about your project and this will take away from more specific comments that you might receive from the class. Thus, it is in your interest to construct as complete a proposal as you can within the time constraints of the semester. The point to remember is that you will be graded only on the final product – what you turn in at the end of the semester. Thus, the presentation is entirely for *your* benefit. Use it wisely by preparing as good a proposal as you can and by listening carefully (and taking notes) on what members of the class have to say. I hope that the class will function like a dissertation-writing workshop (which I strongly advise you to create, once you reach that stage). I want us each to help each other. Note that I also usually present work-in-progress, so this is truly a community activity.

Please send everyone a copy of your proposal via email by noon one day before the day you are to present. We will critique, and praise, each proposal in class. Ideally, your written proposal will speak for itself, though you will have a chance, of course, to respond to comments and to expatiate on your ideas.

While the primary beneficiary of each of these class discussions will presumably be the writer of that day's proposal, I also expect this to be a learning experience for the rest of us. My own experience is that one learns as much from one's colleagues' successes and failures as one does from general reading about methodological principles or highly polished academic articles. So, the discussion of proposals is an integral part of the course. I hope that you will read each others' work carefully -- out of a sense of mutual obligation *and* as a model for things you might wish to explore (or avoid) in your own work.

FINAL EXAM

The final exam will cover everything -- all required reading and all in-class discussion. (Many of the questions

on the final will have been discussed in class.) It is a closed-book, closed-note test -- just you and the exam. I strongly encourage you to take notes during class and on the readings and to study in small groups for the final. It will be difficult, if not impossible, to pull things together if you have only the readings to fall back on at the end of the semester.

READINGS

The reading for graduate courses is extensive; this course is no exception. As it is, we are barely scratching the surface of this vast subject matter. Each week's reading will probably take you more than one night to get through. Do not wait until the night before to start reading!

Note also that readings are chosen for their heuristic value, not necessarily for their methodological rigor. Just because a book or article appears on this syllabus does not mean that it has received a seal of approval from the methodological rabbinical council.

NOTE

Assigned readings are marked by an asterisk. Other readings are suggested, but not required. Most of the assigned readings are available for purchase or can be downloaded from the web. Others will be posted on the course Blackboard site. Please bring all required readings to class so that we can refer to specific passages.

TO PURCHASE

*Dunning, Thad. Forthcoming. *Natural Experiments in the Social Sciences*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

*Gerring, John. 2007. *Case Study Research: Principles and Practices*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

*Gerring, John. 2011. *Social Science Methodology: A Unified Framework*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

*Fowler, Floyd J. (ed). 2008. *Survey Research Methods (Applied Social Research Methods)*, 4th ed. Sage.

*Kapiszewski, Diana; Lauren McLean; Benjamin Read. Forthcoming. *Field Research in Political Science*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

*Seawright, Jason. Forthcoming. *Multi-Method Social Science: Combining Qualitative and Quantitative Tools*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. [??]

RECOMMENDED

Angrist, Joshua D.; Jorn-Steffen Pischke. 2009. *Mostly Harmless Econometrics: An Empiricist's Companion*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. [advanced]

Box-Steffensmeier, Janet; Henry Brady; David Collier (eds). 2008. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Brady, Henry E.; David Collier (eds). 2010. *Rethinking Social Inquiry: Diverse Tools, Shared Standards, 2d ed.* Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield.

King, Gary; Robert O. Keohane; Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Morgan, Stephen L.; Christopher Winship. 2007. *Counterfactuals and Causal Inference: Methods and Principles for Social Research*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. [advanced]

Pearl, Judea. 2009. *Causality: Models, Reasoning, and Inference, 2d ed.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. [very advanced]

Rosenbaum, Paul R. 2010. *Design of Observational Studies*. New York: Springer. [advanced]

THIS COURSE AND YOUR GRADUATE EDUCATION

This course is one of a handful you will take at BU as part of your MA or PhD. It offers an opportunity learn a lot about methodology. I have structured the course as best I can to facilitate this – in particular, by writing a set of texts that we will follow through much of the course. Yet, how much you take away from this course is primarily up to you. Think of this course as an opportunity to learn, not simply a hoop that you must jump through. And think of me as a facilitator, not simply your professor. It will be more fun that way, for me and for you.

Introduction (TBA)

Sign up for class presentations.

Readings:

*Gerring, John. "Guidelines for the Proposal." [Describes the writing assignment, due at the end of the semester. Posted on our Blackboard site.]

*Gerring, John. 2011. *Social Science Methodology: A Unified Framework*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. [Preface, chs 1-4]

Please consult papers and books on writing/publishing listed in the Addenda as you craft your proposal.

Description

Conceptualization and Measurement (TBA)

Readings:

*Gerring, John. 2011. *Social Science Methodology: A Unified Framework*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. [part II]

Concepts...

Collier, David, James E. Mahon, Jr. 1993. "Conceptual 'Stretching' Revisited: Adapting Categories in Comparative Analysis." *American Political Science Review* 87:4 (December) 845-55.

Collier, David; John Gerring (eds). 2009. *Concepts and Method: Giovanni Sartori and His Legacy*. Routledge.

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

Laudan, Larry. 1977. "Conceptual Problems." Chapter two of *Progress and Its Problems: Towards a Theory of Scientific Growth*, 45-70.

*Sartori, Giovanni. 1970. "Concept Misformation in Comparative Politics." *American Political Science Review* 64:4 (December) 1033-46.

Sartori, Giovanni. 1984. "Guidelines for Concept Analysis." In *Social Science Concepts: A Systematic Analysis* (Beverly Hills: Sage) 15-48.

Measurement...

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

Duncan, Otis Dudley. 1984. *Notes on Social Measurement: Historical and Critical*. New York: Russell Sage. [From the perspective of sociology.]

Jacoby, William G. 1999. "Levels of Measurement and Political Research: An Optimistic View." *American Journal of Political Science* 43, 271-301.

Judd, Charles M.; Gary H. McClelland. 1998. "Measurement." In D.T. Gilbert, S.T. Fiske, and G. Lindzey (eds), *The Handbook of Social Psychology* (Boston: McGraw-Hill). [From the perspective of psychology.]

Tinsley, Howard E.A.; David J. Weiss. 1975. "Inter-rater Reliability and Agreement of Subjective Judgments." *Journal of Counseling Psychology* 22, 358-76.

Traub, Ross E. 1994. *Reliability for the Social Sciences: Theory and Applications*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Velleman, Paul F.; Leland Wilkinson. 1993. "Nominal, Ordinal, Interval, and Ratio Typologies are Misleading." *American Statistician* 47, 65-72.

Weller, Susan C.; A. Kimball Romney. 1988. *Systematic Data Collection*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage. [From the perspective of quantitative anthropology.]

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

"Democracy"...

Casper, Gretchen; Claudiu Tufis. 2003. "Correlation Versus Interchangeability: The Limited Robustness of Empirical Findings on Democracy Using Highly Correlated Data Sets." *Political Analysis* 11, 196-203.

Cheibub, Jose Antonio; Jennifer Gandhi; James Raymond Vreeland. 2010. "Democracy and Dictatorship Revisited." *Public Choice* 143:1-2, 67-101.

Coppedge, Michael; Angel Alvarez; Claudia Maldonado. 2008. "Two Persistent Dimensions of Democracy: Contestation and Inclusiveness." *Journal of Politics* 70:3 (July) 335-50.

*Coppedge, Michael; John Gerring. 2011. "Conceptualizing and Measuring Democracy: A New Approach." *Perspectives on Politics* (forthcoming).

Elkins, Zachary. 2000. "Gradations of Democracy? Empirical Tests of Alternative Conceptualizations." *American*

- Journal of Political Science* 44:2 (April) 287-94.
- Freedom House. 2007. "Methodology," Freedom in the World 2007. New York: Available online at http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=351&ana_page=333&year=2007. Accessed September 5, 2007.
- Hadenius, Axel; Jan Teorell. 2005. "Assessing Alternative Indices of Democracy." Committee on Concepts and Methods Working Paper Series (August).
- Marshall, Monty G.; Keith Jagers. 2007. "Polity IV Project: Political Regime Characteristics and Transitions, 1800-2006." <http://www.systemicpeace.org/inscr/p4manualv2006.pdf>
- Munck, Gerardo L. 2009. *Measuring Democracy: A Bridge between Scholarship and Politics*. Baltimore: John Hopkins University Press.
- Munck, Gerardo L., Jay Verkuilen. 2002. "Conceptualizing and Measuring Democracy: Alternative Indices." *Comparative Political Studies* 35:1 (February) 5-34.
- Penstein, Daniel, Stephen Meserve and James Melton. 2010. "Democratic Compromise: A Latent Variable Analysis of Ten Measures of Regime Type." *Political Analysis* 18 (4): 426-49.

Field & Archival Research (TBA)

Discussant:

Proposal:

Readings:

Field Research, Ethnography

- Aberbach, Joel D., James D. Chesney and Bert A. Rockman. 1975. "Exploring Elite Political Attitudes: Some Methodological Lessons." *Political Methodology* 2, 1-27.
- Adler, Patricia A.; Peter Adler. 2003. "The Promise and Pitfalls of Going into the Field." *Contexts* 2:2, 41-7.
- Barrett, Christopher B., Jeffrey W. Cason. 1997. *Overseas Research: A Practical Guide*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. [See pp. 90-105]
- Bayard de Volo, Lorraine; Edward Schatz. 2004. "From the Inside Out: Ethnographic Methods in Political Research." *PS: Political Science & Politics* 37, 267-71.
- Bewley, Truman. 1999. *Why Wages don't Fall During a Recession*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
- Burawoy, Michael, Joshua Gamson, and Alice Burton. 1991. *Ethnography Unbound: Power and Resistance in the Modern Metropolis*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Chong, Dennis. 1993. "How People Think, Reason, and Feel about Rights and Liberties." *American Journal of Political Science* 37:3 (August) 867-99.
- Edin, Kathryn; Laura Lein. 1997. *Making Ends Meet*. New York: Russell Sage.
- *Fenno, Richard F., Jr. 1977. "U.S. House Members in Their Constituencies: An Exploration." *American Political Science Review* 71:3 (September) 883-917.
- Fenno, Richard F., Jr. 1978. *Home Style: House Members in Their Districts*. Boston: Little Brown. [especially pp. 249-293]
- *Fenno, Richard F., Jr. 1986. "Observation, Context, and Sequence in the Study of Politics." *American Political Science Review* 80:1 (March) 3-15.
- Fenno, Richard F., Jr. 1990. *Watching Politicians: Essays on Participant Observation*. Berkeley: IGS Press.
- Francis, Elizabeth. 1991. "Qualitative Research: Collecting Life Histories." In *Fieldwork in Developing Countries*, edited by Stephen Devereux and John Hoddinott (New York, London: Harvester Wheatsheaf) 86-101.
- Glaser, James M. 1996. "The Challenge of Campaign-Watching: Seven Lessons of Participant-Observation Research." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 29:3 (September) 533-37.
- Helper, Susan. 2000. "Economists and Field Research: 'You Can Observe a Lot Just by Watching.'" *American Economic Review* 90:2, 228-32.
- *Kapiszewski, Diana; Lauren McLean; Benjamin Read. Forthcoming. *Field Research in Political Science*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Laitin, David. 1986. *Hegemony and Culture: Politics and Religious Change Among the Yoruba*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. [NB: appendix]
- Lieberman, Evan et al. 2004. "Symposium: Field Research." *Qualitative Methods* (Spring) [CQRM web site]
- Liebow, Elliot. 1967. *Tally's Corner: A Study of Negro Streetcorner Men*. Boston: Little, Brown.
- Luker, Kristin. 1984. *Abortion and the Politics of Motherhood*. Berkeley: University of California Press. [appendix 1]
- Murphy, Jerome. 1980. *Getting the Facts: A Fieldwork Guide for Evaluators and Policy Analysts*. Santa Monica, CA: Goodyear Publishing Company.
- Patton, Michael Quinn. 2002. *Qualitative Evaluation and Research Methods*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage. [especially pp.

339-428]

Vidich, Arthur J. 1955. "Participant Observation and the Collection and Interpretation of Data." *American Journal of Sociology* 60:4 (January) 354-60.

Weiss, Robert S. 1994. *Learning from Strangers*. New York, NY: The Free Press.

Archival/ document-based Research...

Elder, Glen H., Jr.; Eliza K. Pavalko; Elizabeth Clipp. 1993. *Working with Archival Data: Studying Lives*. Newbury Park: Sage Publications.

Finnegan, Ruth. 1996. "Using Documents." In Roger Sapsford and Victor Jupp (eds), *Data Collection and Analysis* (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage) 138-52.

Goldgeier, James M. 2004. "Training Graduate Students in Conducting Archival Research." NewsNet (October). [Describes the GWU Cold War summer school program, which is oriented toward US, Russian and other archives of use to those studying foreign policy and IR.]

Goldthorpe, John H. 2000. *On Sociology: Numbers, Narratives, and the Integration of Research and Theory*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. [pp. 65-93]

*Harrison, Hope. "Inside the SED Archives: A Researcher's Diary." *CWIHP bulletin*.

Jupp, Victor. 1996. "Documents and Critical Research." In Roger Sapsford and Victor Jupp (eds), *Data Collection and Analysis* (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage) 298-316.

*Lieshout, Robert H., Mathieu L.L. Segers, and Anna M. van der Vleuten. 2004. "De Gaulle, Moravcsik, and *The Choice for Europe*." *Journal of Cold War Studies* 6:4 (Fall) 89-139. [skim]

Lustick, Ian. 1996. "History, Historiography, and Political Science: Multiple Historical Records and the Problem of Selection Bias." *American Political Science Review* (September) 605-18.

Thies, Cameron G. 2002. "A Pragmatic Guide to Qualitative Historical Analysis in the Study of International Relations." *International Studies Perspectives* 3, 351-72.

Trachtenberg, Marc. 2006. *The Craft of International History: A Guide to Method*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Wohlforth, William. 1998. "Reality Check: Revising Theories of International Politics in Response to the End of the Cold War." *World Politics* 50:4 (July) 650-80.

"Objective" quantitative evidence...

Wars, regime transitions, voting, deaths, murders,...

Textual Analysis (TBA)

Discussant:

Proposal:

Readings:

Content analysis...

Guest presenter: Andrew Reeves

Gerring, John. 1998. *Party Ideologies in America, 1828-1996*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Grimmer, Justin. 2009. "A Bayesian Hierarchical Topic Model for Political Texts: Measuring Expressed Agendas in Senate Press Releases" <http://www.people.fas.harvard.edu/~jgrimmer/ExpAgendaPennState.pdf>

Hopkins, Daniel; Gary King. Forthcoming. "A Method of Automated Nonparametric Content Analysis for Social Science." *American Journal of Political Science* <http://gking.harvard.edu/files/abs/words-abs.shtml>.

Lowe, Will. 2007. "Software for Content Analysis: A Review."

<http://people.iq.harvard.edu/~wlowe/Publications/rev.pdf>

Monroe, Burt L.; Michael P. Colaresi; Kevin M. Quinn. 2008. "Fightin' Words: Lexical Feature Selection and Evaluation for Identifying the Content of Political Conflict." *Political Analysis* 16, 372-403.

Monroe, Burt L.; Philip A. Schrodt. 2008. "Introduction to the Special Issue: The Statistical Analysis of Political Text" *Political Analysis* 16, 351-55.

Neuendorf, Kimberly A. 2001. *The Content Analysis Guidebook*. Sage.

Discourse analysis...

Hopf, Ted. 2004. "Discourse and Content Analysis: Some Fundamental Incompatibilities," *Qualitative Methods Newsletter* (Spring) 31-3.

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

Shapiro, Michael J. 1981. *Language and Political Understanding. Politics of Discursive Practices*. New Haven: Yale University Press..

Wedeen, Lisa. 1999. *Ambiguities of Domination*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Qualitative data analysis...

Guest presenter: Emily Barman



Surveys and Interviews (TBA)

Discussant:

Proposal:

Readings:

Survey research...

- *Brady, Henry E. 2000. "Contributions of Survey Research to Political Science." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 33:1 (March) 47-57.
- *Dryzek, John S. 1988. "The Mismeasure of Political Man." *Journal of Politics* 50:3 (August) 705-25.
- Fink, Arlene. [various editions] *How to Conduct Surveys: A Step-by-Step Guide*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- *Fowler, Floyd J. (ed). 2008. *Survey Research Methods, 4th ed.* Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. [chs 1-6, 10; browse the rest]
- King, Gary; Christopher J.L. Murray; Joshua A. Salomon; Ajay Tandon. 2004. "Enhancing the Validity and Cross-Cultural Comparability of Measurement in Survey Research." *American Political Science Review* 98, 567-83.
- Lee, Taeku. 2002. *Mobilizing Public Opinion: Black Insurgency and Racial Attitudes in the Civil Rights Era*. Chicago: Chicago University Press.
- Schaeffer, Nora Cate; Stanley Presser. 2003. "The Science of Asking Questions." *Annual Review of Sociology* 29, 65-88.
- Schwartz, Joel. 1984. "Participation and Multisubjective Understanding: An Interpretivist Approach to the Study of Political Participation." *Journal of Politics* (November) 1117-41.
- Seligson, Mitchell. 2005. "Improving the Quality of Survey Research in Democratizing Countries." *PS: Political Science and Politics* (January) 51-6.
- Weisberg, Herbert F. 2005. *The Total Survey Error Approach: A Guide to the New Science of Survey Research*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. [NB: chs 1-2, 7, 10]
- Zaller, John; Stanley Feldman. 1992. "A Simple Theory of the Survey Response: Answering Questions versus Revealing Preferences." *American Journal of Political Science*.

Interviews...

- Dexter, Lewis. *Elite and Specialized Interviewing*.
- Gorden, Raymond L. 1998. *Basic Interviewing Skills*. Waveland. [Pretty basic, but perhaps good primer.]
- Hammer, Dean and Aaron Wildavsky. 1989. "The Open-Ended, Semi-Structured Interview: An (Almost) Operational Guide." In Aaron Wildavsky, *Craftways: On the Organization of Scholarly Work* (New Brunswick: Transaction).
- Kvale, Steiner. 1996. *InterViews*. Thousand Oaks: Sage, Chapter 10.
- Leech, Beth L. et al. 2002. "Symposium: Interview Methods in Political Science." *PS: Political Science and Politics* (December).
- *Peabody, Robert L. et al. 1990. "Interviewing Political Elites." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 23, 451-55.
- Rubin, Irene; Herbert J. Rubin. 1995. *Qualitative Interviewing: The Art of Hearing Data*. Sage.

Focus groups...

- Bratton, Michael; Beatrice Liatto-Katundu. 1994. "A Focus Group Assessment of Political Attitudes in Zambia." *African Affairs* 93:373 (October) 535-63.
- *Conover, Pamela Johnston, Ivor M. Crewe, and Donald Searing. 1991. "The Nature of Citizenship in the United States and Great Britain: Empirical Comments on Theoretical Themes." *Journal of Politics* 53:3 (August) 800-32.
- Morgan, David. 1997. *Focus Groups as Qualitative Research*. Sage.
- Simon, Judith Sharken. 2007. "How to Conduct a Focus Group."

Causation

Note: Classes in this section of the course will be conducted in the following manner. At the outset, I will lecture from the assigned chapter(s) in SSM. Next, we will discuss the other assigned readings (on topics related to causation but not identical to the chapter from SSM).

Overview readings:

- Brady, Henry E. 2003. "Models of Causal Inference: Going Beyond the Neyman-Rubin-Holland Model." [downloadable from the web]
- Heckman, James J. 2005. "The Scientific Model of Causality." *Sociological Methodology* 35, 1-97.
- Heckman, James J. 2008. "Econometric Causality." *International Statistical Review* 76:1, 1-27.
- Holland, Paul W. 1986. "Statistics and Causal Inference." *Journal of the American Statistical Association* 81:396 (December) 945-60.
- Marini, Margaret; Burton Singer. 1988. "Causality in the Social Sciences." In Clifford Clogg (ed), *Sociological Methodology* 18, 347-409.
- Morgan, Stephen L.; Christopher Winship. 2007. *Counterfactuals and Causal Inference: Methods and Principles for Social Research*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Rubin, Donald. 2005. "Causal Inference Using Potential Outcomes: Design, Modeling, Decisions." *Journal of the American Statistical Association* 100, 322-31.

Experiments (TBA)

Discussant:

Proposal:

Readings:

SSM...

- *Gerring, John. 2011. *Social Science Methodology: A Unified Framework*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. [chs 8-9]

Experiments...

- Cason, Timothy N. and Vai-Lam Mui. 2003. "Testing Political Economy Models of Reform in the Laboratory." *American Economic Association, Papers and Proceedings* 93:2 (May) 208-12.
- Duflo, Esther; Rachel Glennerster; Michael Kremer. 2006. "Using Randomization in Development Economics Research: A Toolkit." Unpublished manuscript.
- Green, Donald P. and Alan S. Gerber. 2001. "Reclaiming the Experimental Tradition in Political Science." Paper Presented to the annual meetings of the American Political Science Association, Washington, DC. [http://www.yale.edu/isps/publications/voter.html]
- Green, Donald P and Alan S. Gerber. 2002. "The Downstream Benefits of Experimentation." *Political Analysis* 10:4, 394-402.
- Heckman, James J. and Jeffrey A. Smith. 1995. "Assessing the Case for Social Experiments." *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 9, 85-110.
- *Humphreys, Macartan; Jeremy Weinstein. 2009. "Field Experiments and the Political Economy of Development." *Annual Review of Political Science* 12 (June) 367-78.
- Kagel, John H. and Alvin E. Roth (eds). 1997. *Handbook of Experimental Economics*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Kinder, Donald and Thomas R. Palfrey (eds). 1993. *The Experimental Foundations of Political Science*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.
- Levin, Irwin P. 1999. *Relating Statistics and Experimental Design: An Introduction*. Thousand Oaks: Sage.
- Lovaglia, Michael. 2003. "From Summer Camps to Glass Ceilings: The Power of Experiments." *Contexts* (Fall) 42-9.
- McDermott, Rose. 2002. "Experimental Methodology." *Political Analysis* 10:4.
- *McDermott, Rose. 2002. "Experimental Methods in Political Science." *Annual Review of Political Science* 5, 31-61.
- Morton, Rebecca B.; Kenneth C. Williams. 2010. *From Nature to the Lab: The Methodology of Experimental Political Science and the Study of Causality*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Palfrey, Thomas R. 2009. "Laboratory Experiments in Political Economy." *Annual Review of Political Science* 12 (June) 379-88.

Examples...

- Ansolabehere, Stephen and Shanto Iyengar. 1995. *Going Negative: How Political Advertisements Shrink and Polarize the Electorate*. New York: Free Press.
- *Chattopadhyay, Raghavendra; Esther Duflo. 2004. "Women as Policy Makers: Evidence from a Randomized Policy Experiment in India." *Econometrica* 72:5, 1409-43.
- Frank, Robert H., Thomas Gilovich, and Dennis T. Regan. 1993. "Does Studying Economics Inhibit Cooperation?" *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 7, 159-71.
- Gerber, Alan S. and Donald P. Green. 2001. "Do Phone Calls Increase Voter Turnout?: A Field Experiment." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 65, 75-85.

- Glaeser, Edward L., David Laibson, Jose A. Scheinkman, and Christine L. Soutter. 2000. "Measuring Trust." *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 65 (August) 811-846.
- Glaser, James. 2003. "Social Context and Inter-Group Political Attitudes: Experiments in Group Conflict Theory." *British Journal of Political Science* 33 (October) 607-20.
- Gosnell, Harold F. 1926. "An Experiment in the Stimulation of Voting." *American Political Science Review* 20:4 (November) 869-74.
- Henrich, Joseph, Robert Boyd, Samuel Bowles, Colin Camerer, Ernst Fehr, Herbert Gintis, (eds). 2004. *Foundations of Human Sociality: Economic Experiments and Ethnographic Evidence from Fifteen Small-Scale Societies*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- *Hoff, Karla; Priyanka Pandey. 2004. "Belief Systems and Durable Inequalities: An Experimental Investigation of Indian Caste." World Bank Policy Research Working Paper Series 3351.
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Natural Experiments (TBA)

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Proposal:

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Large-N Observational Analysis ("regression") (TBA)

Discussant:

Proposal:

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SSM...

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Rodrik, Dani. 2005. "Why We Learn Nothing from Regressing Economic Growth on Policies." Ms.

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Discussant:

Proposal:

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Residual Topics (TBA)

Discussant:

Proposal:

Readings:

Explaining particular events (single-outcome studies)...

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SSM...

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Schneider, Carsten; Claudius Wagemann. Forthcoming. *Set-Theoretic Methods: A User's Guide for Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) and Fuzzy-Sets in the Social Sciences*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Work by Goertz, Mahoney, and Ragin cited in SSM.

Conclusions

First draft of research proposal due (TBA)

Turn in your drafts by email attachment in Word format. I will try to return them to you with comments in a week.

Interpretivism (TBA)

Discussant:

Proposal:

Readings:

Interpretivism

- Denzin, Norman K. 2002. "The Interpretive Process." In A. Michael Huberman and Matthew B. Miles (eds), *The Qualitative Researcher's Companion* (Sage) 349-66. [A how-to guide]
- Gadamer, Hans-Georg. 1975. *Truth and Method*, trans. Garrett Barden and John Cumming. New York: Seabury Press.
- *Geertz, Clifford. 1979/2000. "Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese Cockfight." In Lane Crothers and Charles Lockhart (eds), *Culture and Politics: A Reader* (New York: St. Martin's). Reprinted: www.si.umich.edu/~rfrost/courses/MatCult/content/Geertz.pdf
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History of, and Debates about, Political Science (TBA)

Discussant:

Proposal:

Readings:

History...

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- Easton, David, John G. Gunnell, and Luigi Graziano (eds). 1991. *The Development of Political Science: A Comparative Study*. London: Routledge.
- Farr, James and Raymond Seideman (eds). 1993. *Discipline and History: Political Science in the United States*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.
- *Freeman, Donald M. 1991. "The Making of a Discipline." In William Crotty (ed), *Political Science: Looking to the Future* (Evanston, IL: Northwestern University Press) 15-44.
- Galtung, Johan. 1981. "Structure, Culture and Intellectual Style: An Essay Comparing Saxon, Teutonic, Gallic and Nipponic Approaches." *Social Science Information* 20:6, 817-56.
- Jewell, Malcolm E.; Michael A. Baer; Lee Sigelman (eds). 1991. *Political Science in America: Oral Histories of a Discipline*. University Press of Kentucky.
- Merriam, Charles E. 1923. "Recent Advances in Political Methods." *American Political Science Review* 17, 274-95.
- Ross, Dorothy. 1993. "The Development of the Social Sciences." In James Farr and Raymond Seideman (eds),

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Multiple Methods ...

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 Lieberman, Evan S. 2005. "Nested Analysis as a Mixed-Method Strategy for Comparative Research." *American Political Science Review* 99:3 (August) 435-52.
 Morrow, James D. 2003. "Diversity through Specialization." *PS: Political Science & Politics* 36: 3 (July) 391-3.
 Pearce, Lisa D. 2002. "Integrating Survey and Ethnographic Methods for Systematic Anomalous Case Analysis." *Sociological Methodology* 32, 103-32.
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Tracking the Methodenstreit...

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More Debates (TBA)

Discussant:

Proposal:

Readings:

Area Studies...

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Smith, Rogers M. 2002. "Should We Make Political Science More of a Science or More about Politics?" *PS: Political*

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- *Tobarrok, Alex. 2005. "Why Most Published Research Findings are False."
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- *Smith, Kevin. 2005. "Data Don't Matter? Academic Research and School Choice." *Perspectives on Politics* 3:2 (June) 285-99.
- Fragmentation, Integration, Consensus...*
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- Broad-based Critiques, Jeremiads, Defenses...*
- Bennett, Stephen Earl. 2002. "'Perestroika' Lost: Why the Latest 'Reform' Movement in Political Science Should Fail." *PS: Political Science and Politics* (June) 177-79.
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- Ollman, Bertell. 2000. "What is Political Science: What Should it Be?" *New Political Science* 22:4 (December) 553-62.
- Strauss, Leo. 1989. "Social Science and Humanism." In *The Rebirth of Classical Political Rationalism* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press) 3-12.
- Tully, James. 2002. "Political Philosophy as a Critical Activity." *Political Theory* 30:4 (August).
- Wolin, Sheldon S. 1969. "Political Theory as a Vocation." *American Political Science Review* 63 (December) 1062-82.
- Sociology*
- Lieberson, Stanley. 1992. "Einstein, Renoir, and Greeley: Some Thoughts about Evidence in Sociology: 1991 Presidential Address." *American Sociological Review* 57:1 (February) 1-15.

The Craft of Political Science (TBA)

Proposal:

Readings:

Ethics...

Ethics Core digital library <http://nationalethicsresourcecenter.net/index.php/home>

American Political Science Association. *APSA Guide to Professional Ethics in Political Science*.

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Career advice...

Guest presenter: [current PhD student]

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*Hassner, Ron E. 2008. "Trial by Fire: Surviving the Job Talk Q & A." *PS: Political Science and Politics* xli:4 (October) 803-8.

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*Van Evera, Stephen. 1997. *Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. [chs 3-4.]

See also APSA web page with links to articles from APSR, PS, and POP related to careers, jobs, and networking. http://apsanet.org/content_13150.cfm

Final Exam (TBA)

Final draft of research proposal due (TBA)

Turn in drafts by email attachment in Word format.

ADDENDA

Web Resources

Consortium for Qualitative Research Methods (CQRM) homepage:

http://www.maxwell.syr.edu/moynihan_cqrm.aspx

Political Methodology homepage:

<http://web.polmeth.ufl.edu/>

Committee on Concepts and Methods homepage:

<http://www.concepts-methods.org/>

<http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/>
<http://www.anu.edu.au/nceph/surfstat/surfstat-home/surfstat.html>
<http://www.psychstat.smsu.edu/scripts/dws148f/statisticsresourcesmain.asp>

Lexicons

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Vogt, W. Paul. [various years] *Dictionary of Statistics and Methodology*. Newbury Park: Sage.
On-line glossary: <http://polisci.nelson.com/glossary.html>
Statistics terms: <http://www2.chass.ncsu.edu/garson/pa765/statnote.htm>

Writing, Publishing

The academic review process: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-VRBWLpYCPY>
Becker, Howard S. 1986. *Writing for Social Scientists: How to Start and Finish Your Thesis, Book, or Article*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
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- Hempel, Carl G. 1942. "The Function of General Laws in History." *Journal of Philosophy* 39, 35-48. Reprinted in Michael Martin and Lee C. McIntyre (eds), *Readings in the Philosophy of Social Science*. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1994).
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Feyerabend, Paul. 1975. *Against Method*. London: New Left Books.

Rosenau, Pauline Marie. 1992. *Post-Modernism and the Social Sciences: Insights, Inroads, and Intrusions*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Social Science versus Natural Science...

Machlup, Fritz. "Are the Social Sciences Really Inferior?" Reprinted in Michael Martin and Lee C. McIntyre (eds), *Readings in the Philosophy of Social Science*. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1994).

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