

POLITICAL SCIENCE 532: "INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH DESIGN"

Meeting Time: M 5:40 PM to 8:20 PM

Location: Hickman Hall, Siegel Lounge (6th Floor)

Instructor: Alvin B. Tillery, Jr.

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Office Hours: T 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM (in Hickman Hall 509); by appointment.

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course seeks to expose students to the philosophical and practical issues associated with the development of research designs in the discipline of political science. Upon completion of this course, students will have an enhanced ability to analyze extant scholarly work and develop their own research designs. The seminar will explore the techniques, uses, strengths, and limitations of a number of methodological approaches. It will also emphasize the relationships among these methods, alternative approaches, and contemporary debates about their usefulness in political science.

The course begins with a focus on the philosophy of science, theory construction, theory testing, and causal inference. This epistemological foundation will provide students with the tools necessary to grapple with the first order issues involved with designing research projects in political science. The course will then shift to a focus on various case-study methodologies. The final segment of the seminar examines field research techniques and data collection.

Required Books (available for purchase at the COOP Bookstore) :

- (1) Alexander George and Andrew Bennett, *Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences* (MIT Press, 2004);
- (2) Henry E. Brady and David Collier (eds.), *Rethinking Social Inquiry: Diverse Tools, Shared Standards* (Oxford, UK: Roman and Littlefield, 2004);
- (3) James Mahoney and Dietrich Rueschemeyer, *Comparative Historical Analysis in the Social Sciences* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003);
- (4) John Gerring, *Social Science Methodology: A Criterial Framework* (Cambridge University Press, 2001);

(6) David Morgan, *Focus Groups as Qualitative Research*, 2nd Edition (Newbury Park: Sage, 1997), 7-30;

(7) Gary King, Robert Keohane, and Sidney Verba, *Designing Social Inquiry* (Princeton University Press, 1994).

II. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Class Participation (25% of your grade): All students in the course are required to attend the seminar and demonstrate a mastery of the issues presented in the weekly readings. Moreover, to facilitate an active discussion, all students (who are not serving on panel) must bring two or three written questions to share with the group each week.

Panel Participation (25% of your grade): All students in the course are required to serve on panels (groups of 3 to 5 students) that will facilitate class discussions at several points throughout the term. The panel participants will divide the readings among themselves and generate critical summaries for distribution to the entire class. During our meetings, the panels will guide our discussion by presenting their summaries and fielding questions from the class.

NOTE: DURING THE WEEK THAT STUDENTS SERVE ON PANELS, THEY ARE NOT REQUIRED TO GENERATE A SEPARATE SET OF INDIVIDUAL QUESTIONS.

Final Paper (50% of your grade): All students in the seminar are required to submit a research design paper (of no more than 20 pages) that focuses on a problem in one of the four fields of political science. Moreover, this research design paper must utilize a minimum of three of the distinct methods or approaches to the study of politics discussed in the course.

III. COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1 (9/10): Course Overview and Analytical Frameworks

**Rudra Sil, “The Division of Labor in Social Science Research: Unified Methodology or Organic Solidarity?” *Polity*, 32, 4 (Summer 2000), 499-531.

**Henry E. Brady, “Introduction to Symposium: Two Paths to a Science of Politics,” *Perspectives on Politics* June 2004, 2, 2, 295-300.

Sidney Tarrow, “Bridging the Qualitative-Quantitative Divide,” in Henry E. Brady and David Collier (eds.), *Rethinking Social Inquiry: Diverse Tools, Shared Standards* (Oxford, UK: Roman and Littlefield, 2004), 171-179.

Week 2 (9/17): Philosophy of Science: How to Build Knowledge

Basic elements of research design

Gary King, Robert Keohane, and Sidney Verba, *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*, 3-49

Gerardo Munck, "Tools for Qualitative Research," in Henry E. Brady and David Collier (eds.), *Rethinking Social Inquiry: Diverse Tools, Shared Standards* (Oxford, UK: Roman and Littlefield, 2004), 105-121.

Gary King, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba, "The Importance of Research Design," in Henry E. Brady and David Collier (eds.), *Rethinking Social Inquiry: Diverse Tools, Shared Standards* (Oxford, UK: Roman and Littlefield, 2004), 181-191.

Logical Positivism:

**Rudolph Carnap, "The Value of Laws: Explanation and Prediction," *An Introduction to the Philosophy of Science: Philosophical Foundations of Physics* (New York: Basic Books, 1995), 3-18.

**Arthur Stinchcombe, "The Logic of Scientific Inference," *Constructing Social Theories* (New York: Harcourt Brace, 1968), 15-43.

**Ronald Giere, "The Cognitive Structure of Scientific Theories," *Science Without Laws* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1999), 97-117.

Falsification:

**Karl Popper, *The Logic of Scientific Discovery* (New York: Harper and Row, 1968), 78-93.

**Imre Lakatos, "Falsification and the Methodology of Scientific Research Programmes," in Lakatos, ed., *Criticism and the Growth of Knowledge* (Cambridge University Press, 1970), 91-138 and 173-180.

Week 3 (9/24): The Philosophy of Social Science

Naturalism:

**Carl G. Hempel, "The Function of General Laws in History," *Journal of Philosophy* Volume 39, No. 2 (1942), 35-48.

**Harold Kinkaid, "Defending Laws in the Social Sciences," in Michael Martin and Lee C. McIntyre (eds.), *Readings in the Philosophy of Science* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1994), 111-131.

Anti-Naturalism:

**Albert O. Hirshman, "The Search for Paradigms as a Hindrance to Understanding," *World Politics*, Volume 22, No. 3 (March 1970), 329-343.

**Raymond Martin, "The Essential Difference between History and Science," *History and Theory* 36 (1997), 1-14.

Common Ground:

**Paul M. Churchland, "Folk Psychology and the Explanation of Human Behavior," *Philosophical Perspectives* 3 (1989), 225-241.

**Fritz Machlup, "Are the Social Sciences Really Inferior?" in Michael Martin and Lee C. McIntyre (eds.), *Readings in the Philosophy of Science* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1994), 5-21.

Week 4 (10/1): (Description and Interpretation in Social Science)

Description as a Scientific Enterprise:

John Gerring, *Social Science Methodology: A Criterial Framework* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2001), 118-127.

Description as an Unscientific Approach:

Gary King, Robert O. Keohane and Sidney Verba (hereafter KKV), *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1994), 34-75.

Interpretation:

**Georg Henrik von Wright, "Two Traditions," *Explanation and Understanding* (New York: Cornell University Press, 1971), 1-33.

**Clifford Geertz, "Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture," *The Interpretation of Cultures* (New York: Basic Books), 3-32.

**Charles Taylor, "Interpretation and the Sciences of Man," in Paul Rabinow and William Sullivan (eds.), *Interpretive Social Science: A Second Look* (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1987), 33-81.

**Albert O. Hirschman, "The Search for Paradigms as a Hindrance to Understanding," *World Politics* 22 (April 1970), 329-43.

Week 5 (10/8): Explanation, Causality, Mechanisms

Typology of Explanations:

**Daniel Little, *Varieties of Social Explanation. An Introduction to the Philosophy of Social Science*, Westview, 13-38.)No

Causality in the Social World:

**Peter Abell, "Causality and Low-Frequency Complex Events. The Role of Comparative Narratives, *Sociological Methods and Research* 30, 1, August 2001, 57-80.

**Robert Lieberman, "Ideas, Institutions, and Political Order: Explaining Political Change, *APSR* 96, 4 (December 2002), 697-712.

**Margaret Mooney Marini; Burton Singer, "Causality in the Social Sciences," *Sociological Methodology*, Vol. 18. (1988), 347-409.

Mechanisms:

**Charles Tilly, "Mechanisms in Political Processes," *Annual Review of Political Science*, Volume 4 (2001): 21-41.

**Hedstrom, Peter and Richard Swedberg, "Social Mechanisms," *Acta Sociologica*, 1996, Vol. 39: 281-308.

Week 6 (10/15): Concept Formation and the Criterial Framework

Concept Formation:

**Giovanni Sartori, "Concept Misformation in Comparative Politics," *APSR*, Volume 64, No. 4 (December 1970), 1033-1046.

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

**Robert Adcock and David Collier, "Measurement Validity: A Shared Standard for Qualitative and Quantitative Research," *APSR*, 95, 3 (September 2001), 529-546.

Gary Goertz, *Social Science Concepts: A User's Guide* (Princeton, 2006), 1-94.

The Criterial Approach:

John Gerring, *Social Science Methodology: A Criterial Framework* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2001), 35-86.

Week 7 (10/22): Case Study Designs, Part 1

Defining Case Studies and Single Case Designs:

Alexander George and Andrew Bennett, "Part 1," in Alexander George and Andrew Bennett, *Case Studies and Theory Development* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2004), 1-37.

**John Gerring, "What is a Case Study and what is it Good For?" *APSR*, 98, 2 (May 2004), 341-354.

Causal Inference, Mill's Method and Process-Tracing:

Alexander George and Andrew Bennett, "Comparative Methods: Controlled Comparison and Within Case Analysis," in Alexander George and Andrew Bennett, *Case Studies and Theory Development* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2004), 151-181.

Alexander George and Andrew Bennett, "Process-Tracing in Case Study Research," in Alexander George and Andrew Bennett, *Case Studies and Theory Development* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2004), 205-233.

Week 8 (10/29): Case Study Designs, Part 2

Structured, Focused Comparisons:

Alexander George and Andrew Bennett, "The Method of Structured, Focused Comparison," in Alexander George and Andrew Bennett, *Case Studies and Theory Development* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2004), 67-73.

Comparative Case Study Designs:

**Stanley Lieberson, "Small N's and Big Conclusions: An Examination of the Reasoning in Comparative Studies Based on a Small Number of Cases," *Social Forces*, Volume 70, Number 2 (December 1991), 307-320.

**Douglas, Dion, "Evidence and Inference in the Comparative Case Study," *Comparative Politics*, 30, 2 (January 1998), 127-145.

**D. Collier, "The Comparative Method," *Political Science: The State of the Discipline II*, A. W. Finifer, ed. *APSA*, 1993, 105-119.

Recommended:

**Arend Lijphard, "The Comparable Cases Strategy in Comparative Research," *Comparative Political Studies*, 8, (1975), 158-177.

Case Selection:

King, Keohane and Verba, *Designing Social Inquiry*, 128-149.

Van Evera, *Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science*, 77-88.

**Barbara Geddes, "How the Cases You Choose Affect the Answers You Get: Selection Bias in Comparative Politics," *Political Analysis* 2 (1990), 131-150.

**David Collier and James Mahoney, "Insights and Pitfalls: Selection Bias in Qualitative Research," *World Politics*, 49, 1 (1996), 56-91.

Week 9 (11/05): Historical Analyses

Macro-Historical Analysis and Comparison:

**Theda Skocpol and Margaret Somers, "The Uses of Comparative History in Marcosocial Inquiry," *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 22, 2 (April 1980), 174-97.

Hall, Peter, "Aligning Ontology and Methodology in Comparative Research," in James Mahoney and Dietrich Rueschemeyer, eds. *Comparative Historical Analysis and Social Sciences* (Cambridge, 2003), 373-404.

Recommended:

Mahoney and Rueschemeyer, "Comparative-Historical Analysis: Achievements and Agendas," in their *Comparative Historical Analysis in the Social Sciences* (Cambridge, 2003), 3-41.

Paul Pierson, "Big, Slow Moving, and Invisible: Macro-Social Processes in the Study of Comparative Politics," in Mahoney and Rueschemeyer (eds.), *Comparative Historical Analysis in the Social Sciences* (Cambridge, 2003), 177-208.

Kathleen Thelen, "How Institutions Evolve: Insights from Comparative-Historical Analysis," in *Comparative Historical Analysis in the Social Sciences* (Cambridge, 2003), 208-241.

**Carol E. Cleland, "Methodological and Epistemic Differences between Historical Science and Experimental Science." *Philosophy of Science* 69 (September 2002), 474-496.

Path Dependence:

**James Mahoney, "Path Dependence in Historical Sociology," *History and Theory*, Volume 29, Number 4 (August 2000), 507-548.

**Paul Pierson, "Increasing Returns, Path Dependence and the Study of Politics," *APSR*, Volume 94, Number 2 (June 2000), 251-267.

Counterfactual Analysis:

**James D. Fearon, "Counterfactuals and Hypothesis Testing in Political Science," *World Politics*, 43, 2 (1991), 169-195.

Thinking about Temporality:

**Paul Pierson, "Not Just What, but *When*: Timing and Sequence in Political Processes," *Studies in American Political Development*, Volume 14 (Spring 2001): 72-92. See also Pierson, *Politics in Time* (Princeton, 2004), 54-78.

Recommended:

**Robert Jervis, "Timing and Interaction in Politics: A Comment on Pierson," *Studies in American Political Development*, 14 (Spring 2001), 93-100.

**Tim Buthe, "Taking Temporality Seriously: Modeling History and the Use of Narratives as Evidence," *American Political Science Review*, 93, 3 (September 2002), 481-93.

Week 10 (11/12): (Game Theory and Rational Choice)

**Robert Bates, Avner Greif, Margaret Levi, Jean-Laurent Rosenthal, and Barry Weingast, *Analytic Narratives* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1998), 3-18.

**John Elster, "Rational Choice History: A Case of Excessive Ambition," *APSR* (September 2000), Volume 94, Number 3: 685-695.

Week 11: (11/19): Thanksgiving Vacation (No Class)

Week 12: (11/26): Field Research Techniques, Part 1

The Ethics of Working with Human Subjects:

**Laura Woliver, "Ethical Dilemmas in Personal Interviewing," *PS: Political Science and Politics*, 35, 4 (December 2002), 667-678.

**Maurice Punch, "The Politics and Ethics of Field Research," *Qualitative Research Methods* 3 (Beverly Hills: Sage, 1986), TBA.

Joan E. Sieber, *Planning Ethically Responsible Research* (Thousand Oaks, CA: Russell Sage, 1992), 30-74.

Conducting Elite Interviews:

**Beth Leech, "Interview Methods in Political Science," *PS: Political Science and Politics*, 35, 4 (December 2002), 663-664.

**Beth Leech, "Asking Questions: Techniques for Semi-structured Interviews," *PS: Political Science and Politics*, 35, 4 (December 2002), 665-668.

**Kenneth Goldstein, "Getting in the Door: Sampling and Completing Elite Interviews," *PS: Political Science and Politics*, 35, 4 (December 2002), 669-672.

**Joel D. Aberbach and Bert A. Rockman, "Conducting and Coding Elite Interviews," *PS: Political Science and Politics*, 35, 4 (December 2002), 673-676.

**Jeffrey M. Berry, "Validity and Reliability Issues in Elite Interviewing," *PS: Political Science and Politics*, 35, 4 (December 2002), 679-682.

**Shannon Werning Rivera, Polina M. Kozyreva and Edvard G. Sarvoskii, "Interviewing Political Elites: Lessons from Russia," *PS: Political Science and Politics*, 35, 4 (December 2002), 683-688.

Focus Groups:

**David Morgan, *Focus Groups as Qualitative Research*, 2nd Edition (Newbury Park: Sage, 1997), 7-30.

Week 13: (12/3): Field Research Techniques, Part 2

Ethnography

**Clifford Geertz, "Deep Play: Notes on a Balinese Cockfight," in Paul Rabinow and William Sullivan (eds.), *Interpretive Social Science: A Reader* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1972), 181-223.

**Richard F. Fenno, Jr., "Observation, Context, and Sequence in the Study of Politics," *APSR*, 80, 1 (March 1986), 3-15.

Recommended:

**Richard F. Fenno, Jr., "Appendix: Notes on Method: Participant Observation," in Richard F. Fenno, Jr., *Home Style: House Members and their Districts* (Scot, Foresman and Company, 1978), 249-295.

**Richard F. Fenno, Jr., "U.S. House Members and Their Constituencies: An Exploration," *APSR*, 71, 3 (September 1971), 883-917.

**Robert Aunger, "On Ethnography: Storytelling or Science?" *Current Anthropology*, 36, 1 (February 1995): 97-130.

Week 14: (12/10): Field Research Techniques, Part 3

Introduction to Archival Methods:

**Louis Gottschalk, "What are History and Historical Sources," in *Understanding History: A Primer on Historical Method 2nd Edition* (New York: Knopf, 1969), Ch. 3.

**Louis Gottschalk, "Where Does Historical Information Come From?," in *Understanding History: A Primer on Historical Method 2nd Edition* (New York: Knopf, 1969), Ch. 5.

**Deborah W. Larson, "Sources and Methods in Cold War History: The Need for a New Theory Based Archival Approach," in Colin Elman and Miriam Fendius Elman (eds.), *Bridges and Boundaries: Historians, Political Scientists, and the Study of International Relations* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2001), 111-135.

Overcoming Selection Bias:

**Ian Lustick, "History, Historiography, and Political Science: Multiple Historical Records and the Problem of Selection Bias," *APSR*, 90, 3 (September 1996), 605-618.

**C.B. McCullough, "Bias in Historical Description, Interpretation, and Explanation," *History and Theory* 39 (2000), 39-66.

Examples:

**Alexander L. George, "Knowledge for Statecraft: The Challenge for Political Science and History," *International Security*, 22, 1 (Summer 1997), 44-52.

Week 15: (12/17): (Field Research Techniques, Part 4)

Early Attempts at Content Analysis:

**Harold D. Lasswell, "Why be Quantitative?" in Harold D. Laswell and Nathan Leites (eds.), *Language of Politics: Studies in Quantitative Semantics* (New York: George W. Stewart Publishing, 1965), 40-54.

**Siegfried Kracauer, "The Challenge of Qualitative Content Analysis," *The Public Opinion Quarterly*, 16, 4 (Winter, 1952-1953), 631-642.

Content and Discourse Analysis Procedures:

**Kassarjian, Harold, "The Use of Content Analysis in Consumer Research," *Journal of Consumer Research* 4 (1977), 8-18.

**Herrera, Yoshiko and Bear F. Braumoeller, "Symposium on Content Analysis," *Qualitative Methods* (Spring 2004), 15-27.

**Janet Buttolph Johnson and H.T. Reynolds, "Content Analysis," *Political Science Research Methods 5th Edition* (Washington, DC: CQ Quarterly Press, 2004), 222-236.

Examples:

**Cathy Cohen, "All the Black People Fit to Print," in Cathy Cohen, *Boundaries of Blackness: AIDS and the Breakdown of Black Politics* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1999), 150-185.

**Rodney Bruce Hall, "The Discursive Demolition of the Asian Development Model," *International Studies Quarterly*, 47, 4 (March 2003): 71-99.