

Week 3: Models and Causation

Models

Watch my lecture “Models” [slides] and/or review my notes on models. Complete the review exercises throughout.

Read the following:

- Lave and March. 1993. *An Introduction to Models in the Social Sciences*. Chs. 1 and 2, pp. 1-42. [pdf]. Do the exercises throughout.
- Healy. 2017. “Fuck Nuance.” [pdf]

Causal Inference

You might find it helpful to review the my notes on questions at this point.

Watch my lecture “A Partial Solution to the Fundamental Problem of Causal Inference.” (There are not complementary written notes—sorry!). Review your notes and my slides. Complete the exercises throughout.

Read the following:

- FPP (i.e., Freedman, Pisani, and Purves— the textbook. You should have a hard copy by now. If not, I placed a pdf on Canvas. Look for the link in the Week 3 Announcement.) Read chs. 1-2, pp. 3-28. Do the exercises (for chs. 1-2 only) here.

While most political science research published today focuses on *causal* claims, descriptive research remains useful (and undervalued, in my opinion). Gerring (2012) defends “mere” description.

- Gerring. 2012. “Mere Description.” [pdf].

Finishing Up

Make sure you have completed the entire assignment. Then complete the HW questionnaire, quiz, and letter on Canvas. These are due by Friday at 11:59pm. Please remind yourself of the standards of academic honesty as you complete the graded assignments.