POLI 2000: Designing Political Research

Yue Hu

Fall 2017

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Office Hours: 12:30 – 15:30 M

Office: 313 Shaeffer Hall

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Class Hours: 15:30 – 16:45 MW

Class Room: 105 EPB

Overview

Why do candidates win elections? Why do states get involved in international crises and wars? Why do states cooperate on transnational problems like climate change? What explains differences in how countries treat their citizens? What explains the choices of violent non-state actors like terrorists? There are just some of the questions that political scientists study. The goal of this course is for you to understand how political scientists study these questions. This course will introduce students to political science research and the many different ways that research is undertaken.

This class will help students understand how social scientists study political phenomena. You will learn how to develop causal explanations about politics and society, develop testable research hypotheses, and design different approaches to empirically studying these theories. Emphasis will be on an active hands-on learning environment (TILE classroom). You will also be able to more fully understand research that is produced in Political Science.

Week 1 (2017-08-21~2017-08-27): Intro

Week 2 (2017-08-28~2017-09-03): Scientific Research

Week 3 (2017-09-04~2017-09-10): Labor Day

Week 4 (2017-09-11~2017-09-17): Concept

Week 5 (2017-09-18~2017-09-24): Theory

Week 6 (2017-09-25~2017-10-01): Measurement

Week 7 (2017-10-02~2017-10-08): Validity

Week 8 (2017-10-09~2017-10-15): Design: Experiment

Week 9 (2017-10-16~2017-10-22): Case Description

Week 10 (2017-10-23~2017-10-29): Case Comparison

Week 11 (2017-10-30~2017-11-05): Case Selection

Week 12 (2017-11-06~2017-11-12): Large-N

Week 13 (2017-11-13~2017-11-19): Profession

Week 14 (2017-11-20~2017-11-26): Thanks Giving Week

Week 15 (2017-11-27~2017-12-03): Ethnicity

Week 16 (2017-12-04~2017-12-10): Presentation

Week 17 (2017-12-11~2017-12-17): Final Week