POLI 2000: Designing Political Research

Yue Hu

Fall 2017

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Office Hours: 12:30 – 15:30 M & by Appointment

Office: 313 Shaeffer Hall

Web: TBD

Class Hours: 15:30 – 16:45 M/W

Class Room: 105 EPB

Overview

How do candidates win elections? Why do countries get involved in international crises and wars? What makes a country more powerful than the others? 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 show you how to research these questions as a scholar in political science. This course will introduce students to political science research and various ways that social scientific research is undertaken.

This class will help students comprehend the core elements to build a political science research, such as concept, theory, hypothesis, and evidence. You will also learn how to build new theories, develop testable causal inferences, and design different approaches to examine your theories empirically. Emphasis will be on an active hands-on learning environment and fully interaction between the instructor and students. Students can expect to understand the research produced in Political Science and even other social scientific disciplines more comprehensively.

Requirements

I will base your grade for the course on your performance in the four areas below. For each component of the course grade, I assign a numerical score. I then calculate the course grade with the weighted average of the component scores. Scores of 90-100 correspond to A, 80-89 to B, etc., with pluses and minuses for the top and bottom third of each decile.

1. Class attendance and performance (30%: 10% participation + 10% leading discussion + 10% attendance). Regarding participation, I am looking for you to show that you have read and critically evaluated the assigned readings and are engaged with our in-class discussions. Each student will

2. In-class quizzes (24%)

3. Midterm examination (20%)

4. Final examination (26%)

Readings

Required textbook:

Earl R. Babbie. *The Practice of Social Research.* 13th ed. Australia: Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2012. ISBN: 9781133049791 1133049796.

S. Van Evera. *Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science.* Cornell paperbacks. Cornell University Press, 1997. ISBN: 9780801484575.

Week 1 (2017-08-21~2017-08-27): Being a Political Scientist

Robert O Keohane. "Political Science as a Vocation". *PS: Political Science and Politics* 42.02 (2009), pp. 359–363.

John S Dryzek. "Revolutions without Enemies: Key Transformations in Political Science". *American Political Science Review* 100.04 (2006), pp. 487–92.

Gary King. "Publication, Publication". *PS: Political Science and Politics* 39.01 (2006), pp. 119–125.

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

Babbie (2012), pp.1-27, 112-120.

Gary King. "Replication, Replication". *PS: Political Science and Politics* 28.03 (1995), pp. 444–452.

Gabriel A Almond. "Separate Tables: Schools and Sects in Political Science". *PS: Political Science and Politics* 21.4 (1988), pp. 828–42.

Recommended:

Imre Lakatos and Musgrave Alan. "Falsification and the Methodology of Scientific Research Programmes". *Criticism and the Growth of Knowledge* (1970), pp. 91–180.

Week 3 (2017-09-04~2017-09-10): What's A Good Question (Labor Day)

Barbara Geddes. "Big Questions, Little Answers: How the Questions You Choose Affect the Answer You Get". In: *Paradigms and Sand Castles: Theory Building and Research Design in Comparative Politics.* Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2010. Chap. 2, pp. 27–88.

Van Evera (1997), pp.97-99.

Week 4 (2017-09-11~2017-09-17): How to Find Research Question

Babbie (2012), pp.91-112.

Efren O Perez and Margit Tavits. "Language Shapes People's Time Perspective and Support for Future-Oriented Policies". *American Journal of Political Science* (2017), pp. 1–13.

Timothy J McKeown. "Case Studies and the Statistical Worldview Review of King, Keohane, and Verba's Designing Social Inquiry Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research". *International organization* 53.01 (1999), pp. 161–190.

Charles C Ragin and Lisa M Amoroso. *Constructing Social Research: The Unity and Diversity of Method*. Pine Forge Press, 2010. (Chapter 1, 2)

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

Babbie (2012), pp.165-177.

Michael Barnett and Raymond Duvall. "Power in International Politics". *International Organization* 59.01 (2005), pp. 39–75.

David Collier and Steven Levitsky. "Democracy with Adjectives: Conceptual Innovation in Comparative Research". *World Politics* 49.03 (1997), pp. 430–451.

David Collier and James E Mahon. "Conceptual "Stretching" Revisited: Adapting Categories in Comparative Analysis". *American Political Science Review* 87.04 (1993), pp. 845–855.

Giovanni Sartori. "Concept misformation in comparative politics". *American political science review* 64.04 (1970), pp. 1033–1053.

Recommended:

Peter Bachrach and Morton S Baratz. "Two Faces of Power". *American Political Science Review* 56.04 (1962), pp. 947–952.

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

Babbie (2012), pp.177-194, 197-223; 57-83.

Jason Seawright and David Collier. "Rival Strategies of Validation Tools for Evaluating Measures of Democracy". *Comparative Political Studies* 47.1 (2014), pp. 111–138.

John Gerring. "Causal mechanisms: Yes, But..." *Comparative Political Studies* 43.11 (2010), pp. 1499–526.

Robert Adcock and David Collier. "Measurement Validity: A Shared Standard for Qualitative and Quantitative Research". *American Political Science Review* 33 (2001), pp. 529–546.

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

Van Evera (1997), pp.7-50.

Midterm Review

Week 8 (2017-10-09~2017-10-15): Experimental Logic and Design

Midterm.

Babbie (2012), pp.271-291.

Alan S Gerber and Donald P Green. "Field Experiments and Natural Experiments". In: *The Oxford Handbook of Political Science*. Ed. by Robert E. Goodin. 2011. http://www.oxfordhandbooks.com/view/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199604456.001.0001/oxfordhb-9780199604456-e-050?mediaType=Article (visited on 06/15/2017).

Alex Mintz. "Foreign Policy Decision Making in Familiar and Unfamiliar Settings". *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 48.1 (2004), pp. 91–104.

Week 9 (2017-10-16~2017-10-22): Principles of Case Study

Jack S Levy. "Case Studies: Types, Designs, and Logics of Inference". *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 25.1 (2008), pp. 1–18.

John Gerring. "What is a Case Study and What is it Good for?" *American Political Science Review* 98.02 (2004), pp. 341–354.

Timothy J McKeown. "Case Studies and the Limits of the Quantitative Worldview". In: *Rethinking Social Inquiry: Diverse Tools, Shared Standards*. Ed. by David Collier and Henry E. Brady. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2004, pp. 139–167.

Adam Przeworski and Henry Teune. *The Logic of Comparative Social Inquiry*. New York: Joh Wiley and Sons, 1970. 31-39, 74-87.

Week 10 (2017-10-23~2017-10-29): Case Study in Practice

Van Evera (1997), pp.49-88.

Barbara Geddes. "How the Cases You Choose Affect the Answers You Get: Selection Bias in Comparative Politics". In: *Paradigms and Sand Castles: Theory Building and Research Design in Comparative Politics*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2010, pp. 89–129.

Gerardo L. Munck. "Tools for Qualitative Research". In: *Rethinking Social Inquiry: Diverse Tools, Shared Standards*. Ed. by David Collier and Henry E. Brady. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2004, pp. 105–121.

Benjamin A Most and Harvey Starr. "Case Selection, Conceptualizations and Basic Logic in the Study of War". *American Journal of Political Science* (1982), pp. 834–856.

Week 11 (2017-10-30~2017-11-05): A Glance of Other Small-N Methods

Babbie (2012), pp.295-321.

Andrew Bennett. "Process Tracing: A Bayesian Perspective". In: *Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*. Ed. by Janet Box Steffensmeier, Henry Brady and David Coiller. 2008, pp. 702–21.

Giovanni Capoccia and R Daniel Kelemen. "The Study of Critical Junctures: Theory, Narrative, and Counterfactuals in Historical Institutionalism". *World Politics* 59.03 (2007), pp. 341–369.

Clifford Geertz. "Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture". *Readings in the Philosophy of Social Science* (1994), pp. 213–31.

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

Babbie (2012), pp.415-438.

Wenfang Tang, Yue Hu and Shuai Jin. "Affirmative Inaction: Language Education and Labor Mobility among China's Muslim Minorities". *Chinese Sociological Review* (4 2016), pp. 346–66.

Emilie M Hafner-Burton and Alexander H Montgomery. "Power Positions: International Organizations, Social Networks, and Conflict". *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 50.1 (2006), pp. 3–27.

James Mahoney and Gary Goertz. "A Tale of Two Cultures: Contrasting Quantitative and Qualitative Research". *Political Analysis* 14.3 (2006), pp. 227–49.

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

Babbie (2012), pp.498-519.

Van Evera (1997), pp.99-111.

APSA 2014: Policy Bargaining and International Conflict

MPSA 2017: Trump Scenes

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

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

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

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

Babbie, Earl R. 2012. *The Practice of Social Research.* 13th ed. Australia: Wadsworth Cengage Learning.

Van Evera, S. 1997. *Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science.* Cornell Paperbacks. Cornell University Press.