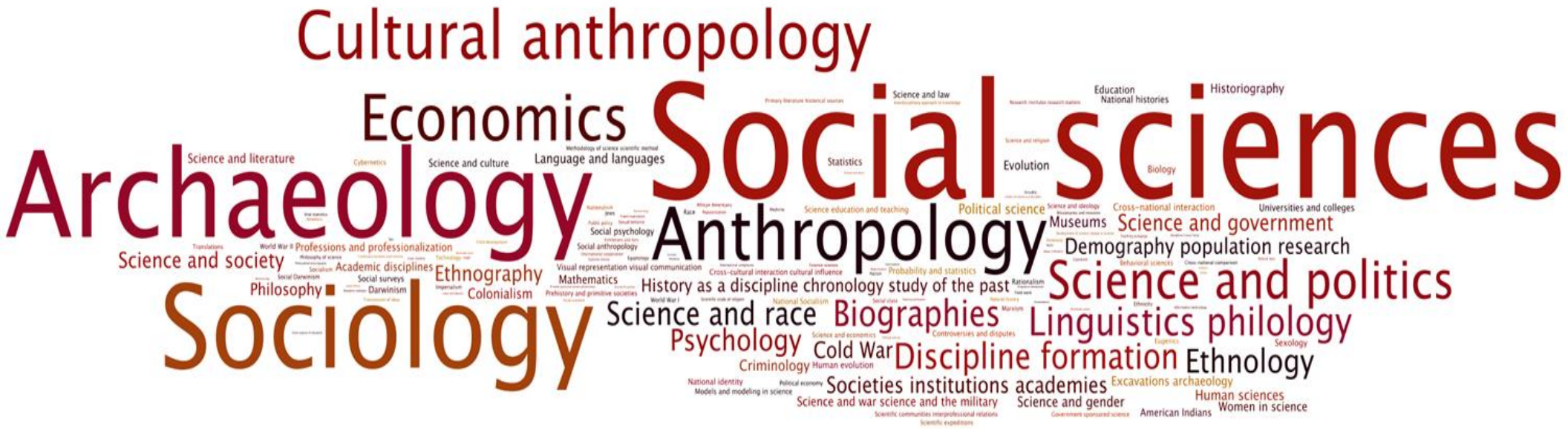
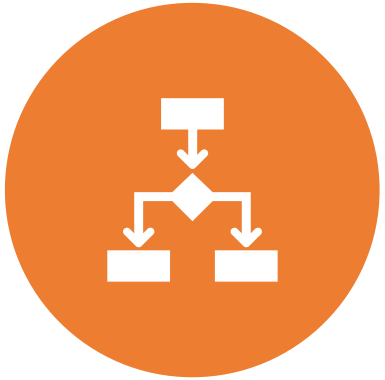
GEQ1000
Economics
(Social Science)

1.1 Introduction

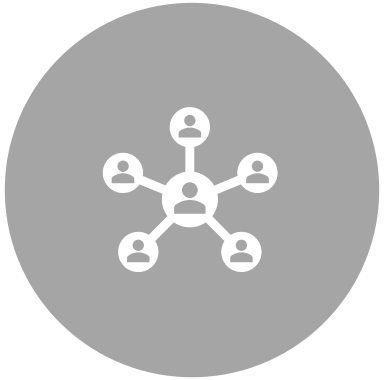
Social Sciences



Social Sciences



DECISION MAKING



SOCIAL INTERACTION

CUSTOMS, NORMS & INSTITUTIONS

Social Sciences & Natural Sciences

MAKE OBSERVATIONS

TAKE MEASUREMENTS

GENERATE THEORIES

RUN EXPERIMENTS

TEST HYPOTHESES

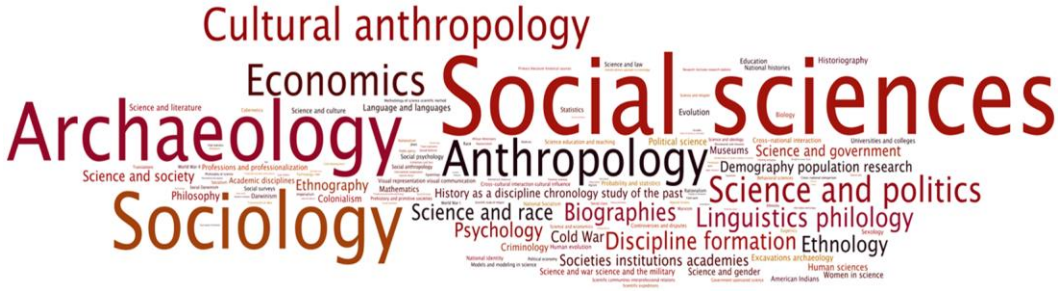
Are the Social Sciences Really “Sciences”?

Newton’s 2nd Law of Motion

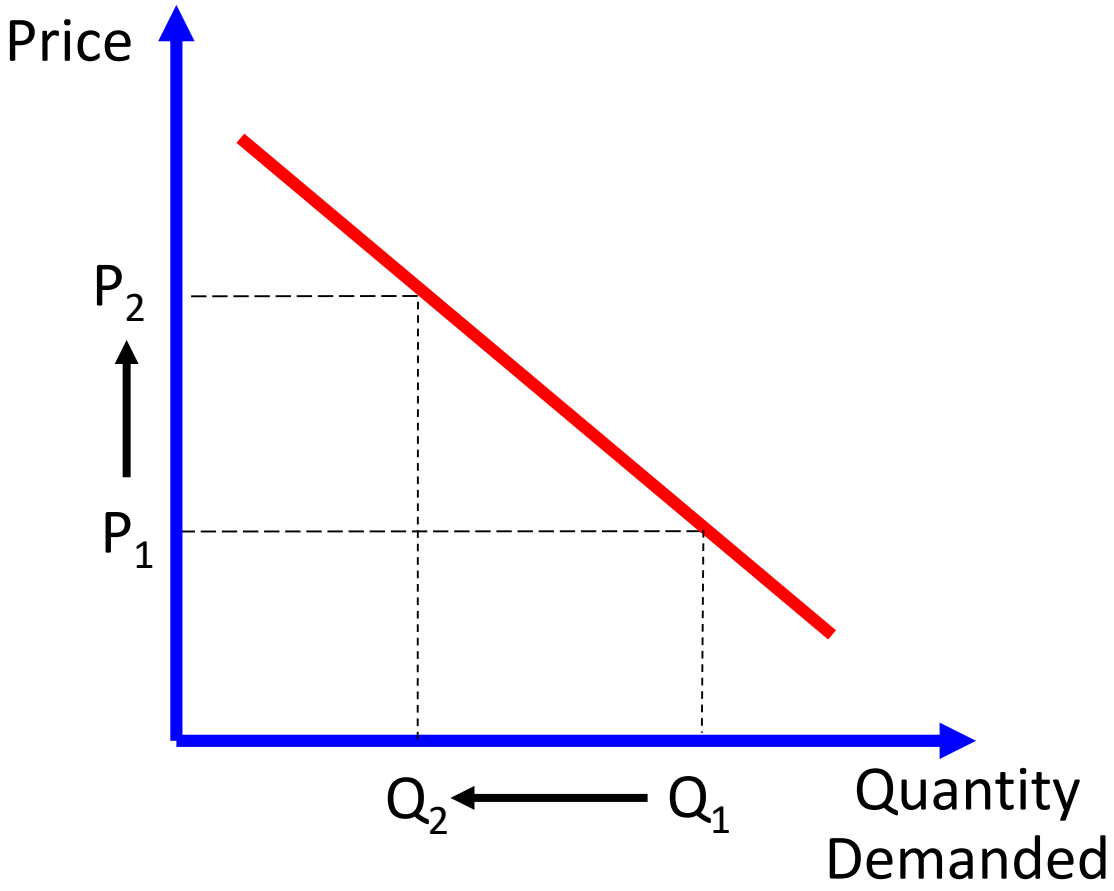
$$F = ma$$

?

=



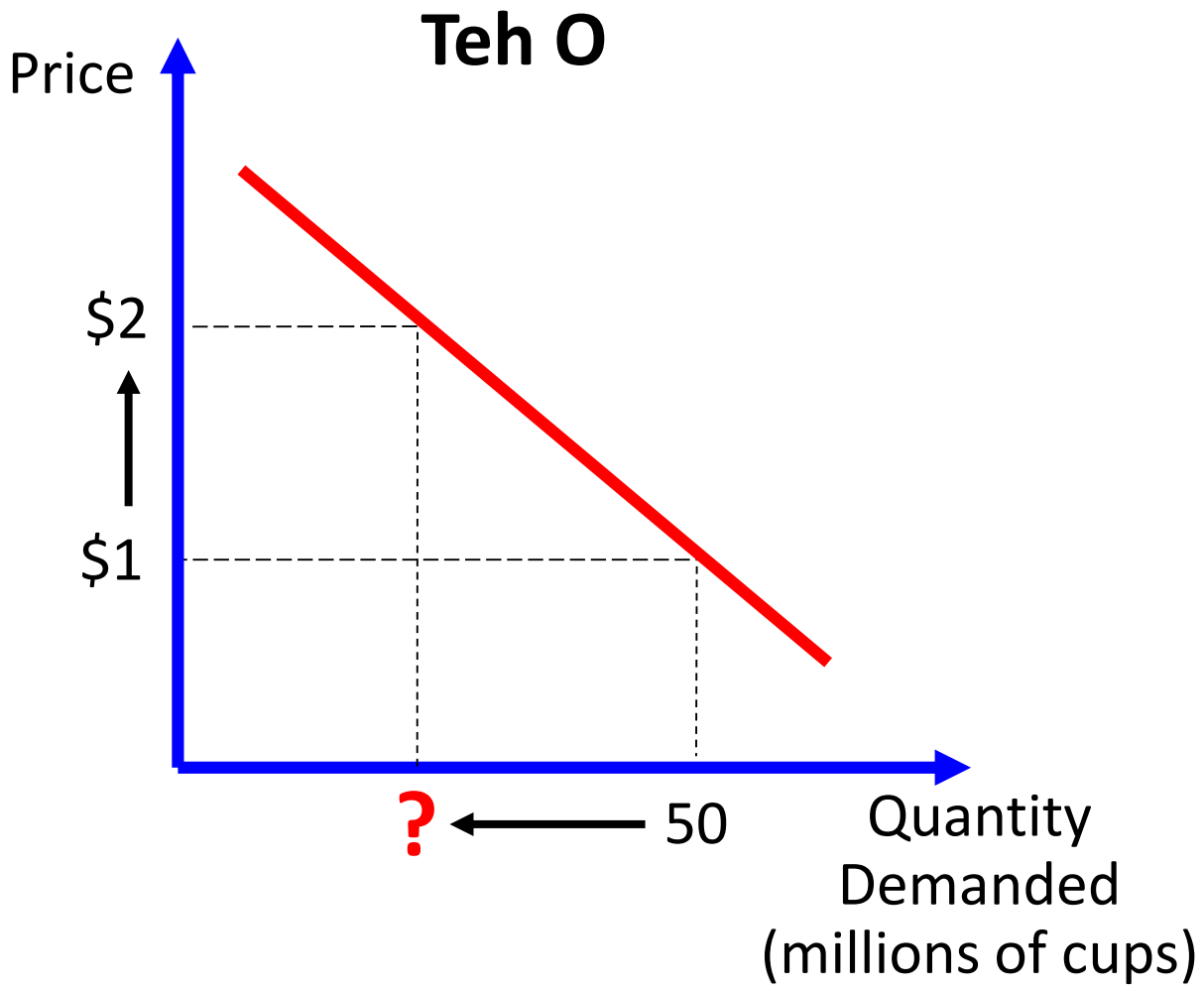
Establishing exact relationships between variables ....



The "Law of Demand"

As the price of a good rises, buyers want to buy smaller quantities, other things equal

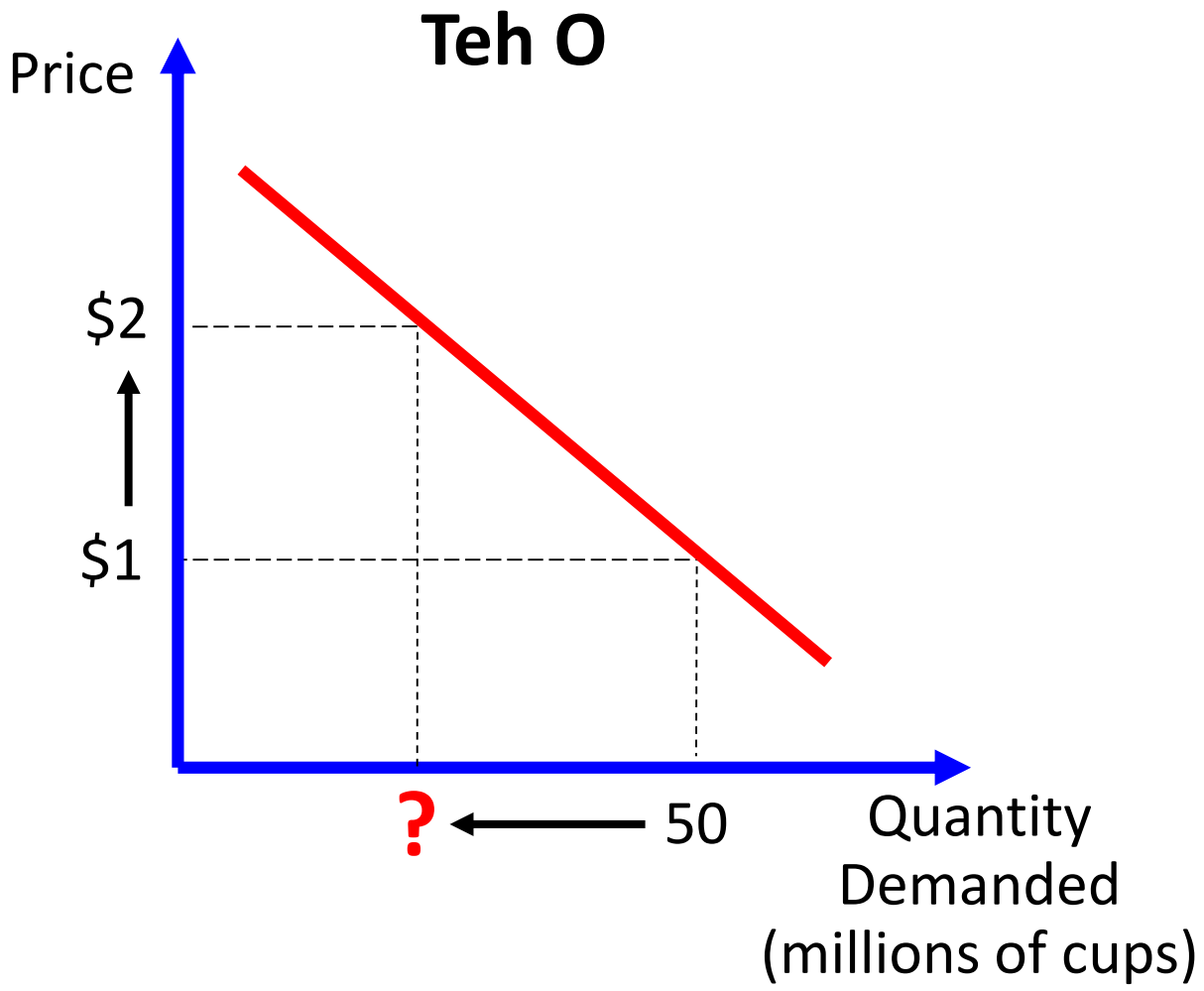
Establishing exact relationships between variables .... is hard!



The "Law of Demand"

But how much smaller?

Establishing exact relationships between variables .... is hard!



The "Law of Demand"

Will the relationship stay the same over time?

Sometimes the “Law” doesn’t work

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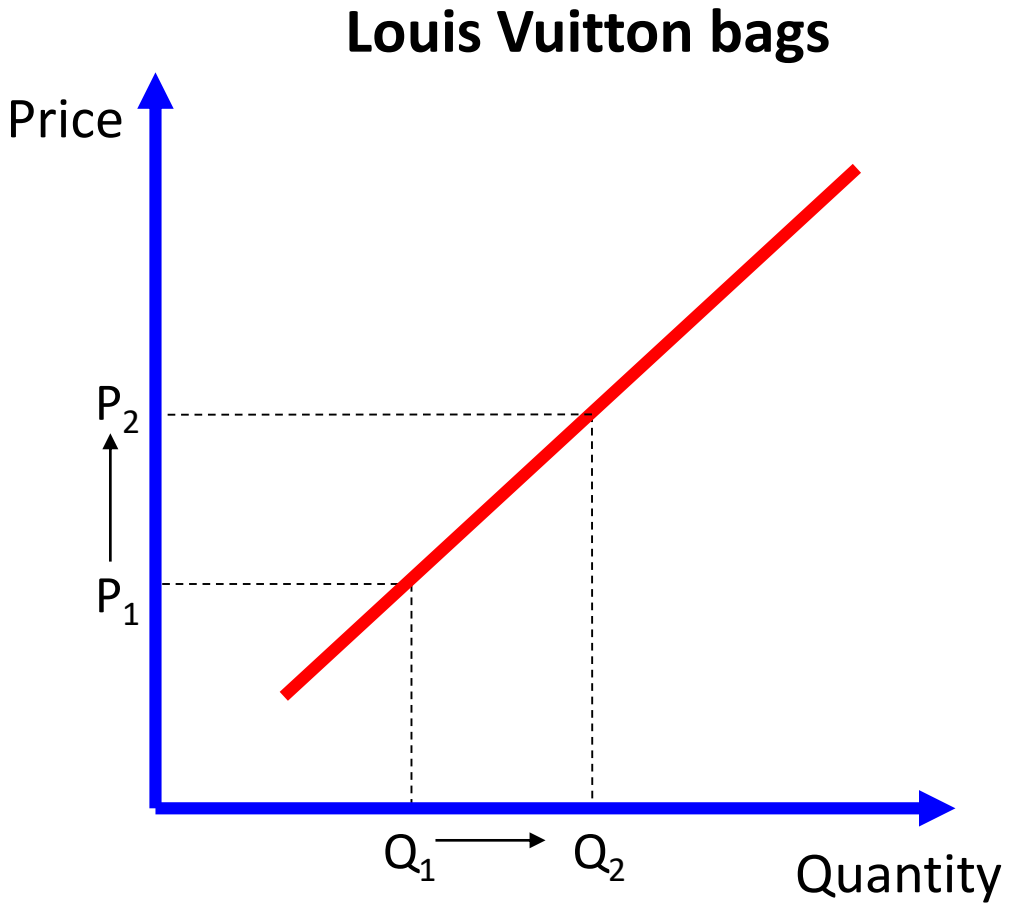


The Problem...

Photo by James Cridland

...Humans!

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy

Thomas Kuhn

Michel Focault

Performativity

Social Scientific Naturalism

B. F. Skinner

Culture and Cognitive Science

Methodological Individualism

Karl Popper

Philosophy of Economics

Milton Friedman

Ceteris Paribus clauses

Jean Piaget

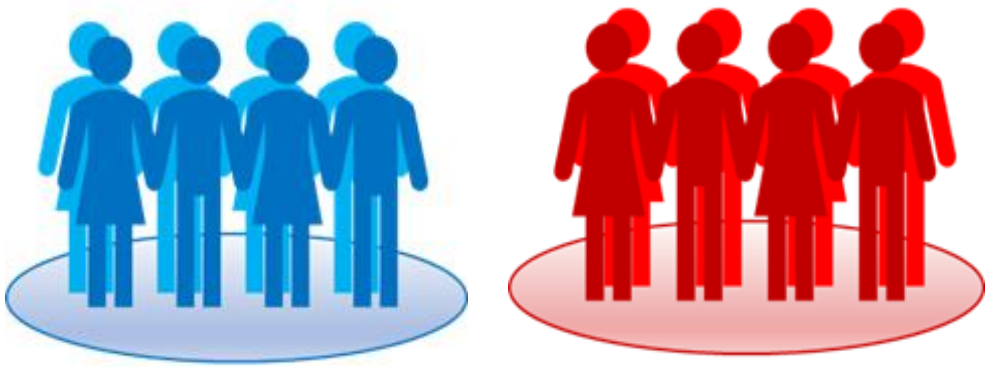
Auguste Comte

Max Weber

What we'll look at

Treated

Not Treated



Program Evaluation

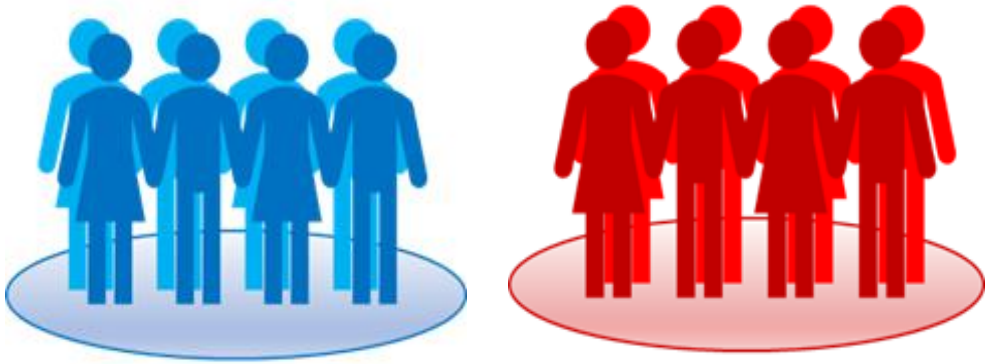
		Player 2	
		Don't Confess	Confess
Prisoner 1	Don't Confess	-6 , -6	-10 , -3
	Confess	-3 , -10	-8 , -8

Models

Program Evaluation

Treated

Not Treated



Measuring policy effectiveness

More generally, making causal inferences

Next up:
Causal Inference