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Office: Room 327
Office Hrs: W 3:30-5:30 pm, or by appointment

University of Utah
Department of Political Science
Class Time: M 2:00-5:00 PM
Location: OSH 208

POLS 7004: Research Design

Spring 2015

Description: This course is a graduate level introduction to the formal process of systematic political research and research design. “Research design” is about proposing research projects that are significant and feasible and that will produce contributions to ongoing scholarly conversations. We will focus on the research process (i.e., formulating a research question, assessing the current state of knowledge, identifying the appropriate research design, hypothesizing, operationalization of concepts, and data collection) and data analysis and testing. Through example and application, students will develop a working knowledge of basic research strategies and applications.

Course Requirements

Grading: The grade for this course is based on the following:

- **Discussion and participation (10%)**
- **Research Paper Assignments (40%)**
 - Four papers (10% each) in the 4-5 page range, plus references.
- **Research Proposal (50%)**
 - Proposal overview (10%), final proposal (40%)

Discussion and participation (10%): This course requires students to present their work, critique the work of their peers and actively discuss and participate in class. Success in academia requires the mastery of these skills. Subsequently, your attendance and participation in class is essential. Students must come prepared as I will call on every student during each class session. No exceptions will be made in this regard.

Research Paper Assignments (40%): For this course, you will be required to do four papers of 4-5 pages in length, not including references. **Papers are due electronically by 3 pm the day before class.** Aside from Paper 1, you have the choice of doing three of the remaining 8 paper prompts. These papers should be in 12 pt New Times Roman font with 1” margins. Each paper is worth 10% of your final grade. The week prior to the assignment, you will be given a prompt to execute for the paper. Each paper gives you the opportunity to execute a recently learned skill. Be sure to cite and provide evidence from the course readings in each paper.

All formal assignments for this class will use the APSA Style Manual for Political Science (2006) as a guide. In addition, all assignments will use 12 point, New Times Roman font with 1” margins. In text citations and a reference list are required for all papers.

Research Proposal Components (50%)

Research Overview: On **February 2nd**, your proposed research project overview will be due at the start of class. This is worth **10%** of your grade. I am happy to help you select a topic in advance. Please feel free to contact me or stop by my office hours to discuss your ideas. The overview should be 1000 words or less and include the research question and how you plan to justify this research. In addition, for this assignment you must identify a grant, fellowship, prospectus, conference or other project to aim towards for your final assignment. Be sure your research question is appropriate for your chosen proposal goal.

Final Research Proposal: The primary written product this semester is a research proposal that sets out a research question, defends its significance, and addresses how the research will be conducted. Ideally, the proposal produced for this course will serve as a dissertation proposal (to be modified with your committee) and/or to be a stepping stone toward a paper for a scholarly conference, fellowship or grant. The proposal is due on **April 27 at the start of class** and is worth **40%** of your grade. The length of the final research proposal will be dictated by the product you choose. Please include the call or instructions for the project you will be producing and a copy of your CV with this assignment.

The proposal should also address the following items:

1. **The Puzzle:** What is the topic you hope to address and why is it interesting?
2. **The Literature Review:** What have other people written about this? What debates exist in the literature and what no conclusions have others reached? Be sure to include at least 10-20 sources relevant to your final research question.
3. **Hypotheses:** Based on this background, what question do you hope to investigate?
4. **Data and Methods:** How will you study your question? What are your DVs and IVs? How will you measure and operationalize these variables? What cases will you use for your research and why? What method will you use for your research and why is it most appropriate? What timeframe will you use for your research?
5. **Implications:** What might your findings imply for policy or other kinds of questions?

Make-up Assignments: All graded assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date due unless otherwise specified. No make-up tests, paper deadline extensions, or incompletes will be given except in cases of documented illness or documented sudden personal emergency. Extended assignments and make-up exams must be submitted within ten days of the excused absence.

Academic Honesty is taken very seriously in our department. The University of Utah's policies pertaining to Academic Misconduct and Dishonesty will be carefully observed and strictly enforced in this class. Students will be held responsible for all academic policies and procedures listed in the Student Handbook, including plagiarism. Any misconduct will result in a failing grade for that assignment and may also result in a failing grade for the course. This policy can be found at <http://www.admin.utah.edu/ppmanual/8/8-10.html>.

Required Readings: The assigned texts for the course are:

- Royce A. Singleton Jr. and Bruce C. Straits (2009) *Approaches to Social Research 5th ed.* New York: Oxford Univ. Press.
- Gerring, John (2006/7) *Case Study Research: Principles and Practices.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Entries below marked with an asterisk are additional to the assigned text and will be available on the course canvas page. All the assigned readings must be done in advance of class.

In addition to the assigned text, there are several general works that may help you in your research, even though there is no ideal book for political science

Key classics in Politic Science include:

- Brady and Collier (eds.). *Rethinking Social Inquiry*, 2nd ed.
- King, Keohane, & Verba. *Designing Social Inquiry.*
- W. Phillips Shively's (2002) *The Craft of Political Research*, 5th ed.

Other especially useful texts include:

- Peter Burnham, et al. (2004) *Research Methods in Politics.* NY: Palgrave Macmillan.
- David de Vaus (2001) *Research Design in Social Research.* London, UK: Sage.
- Daniel Druckman (2005) *Doing Research: Methods of Inquiry for Conflict Analysis.* London, UK: Sage.

University Resources

Wellness Statement: Graduate school can be a very difficult experience with major ups and downs and varying levels of stress. Personal concerns such as stress, anxiety, relationship difficulties, depression, cross-cultural differences, etc., can interfere with a student's ability to succeed and thrive. For helpful resources go to the Center for Student Wellness website.

Americans with Disabilities Act: The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the instructor and to the Center for Disability Services 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V / TDD) to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification.

Veterans Center: If you are a student veteran, I want you to know that the U of Utah has a Veterans Support Center on campus. They are located in Room 418 in the Union Building. Hours: M-F 8-5pm. Please visit their website for more information about what support they offer, a list of ongoing events and links to outside resources: <http://veteranscenter.utah.edu/>. Please also let me know if you need any additional support in this class for any reason.

Readings:

January 12: Introduction to Methods: Getting Organized

- Singleton and Straits, Ch. 1 “Introduction” p. 1-16
- *Marshall and Rossman (2006) “The What of the Study,” in *Designing Qualitative Research*, 4th edition.
- *APSA Style Manual for Political Science (2006) American Political Science Association
- *Gerring et al. (2010) “General Advice on Social Science Writing,” *Boston University Writing Blog*.

January 19: MLK Day– No School

The Scientific and Ethical Contexts of Social Science Research

January 26: The Nature of Science and the Ethics of Research

- Singleton and Straits, Ch. 2 “The Nature of Science,” p. 17-46
- Singleton and Straits, Ch. 3 “Research Ethics,” p. 47-76
- *Shively (2011) *The Craft of Political Research*, Ch 1, p. 1-11
- *Shively (2011) *The Craft of Political Research*, Ch 2, p. 12-31
- *Schwartz-Shea, Peregrine, and Dvora Yanow (2002) “Reading ‘Methods’ Texts: How Research Methods Texts Construct Political Science,” *Political Research Quarterly*, 55 (June), 457-486.

ASSIGNMENT: *What Makes Research Important* - Due electronically by 3 pm on Sunday, Jan. 25th. Think of three academic articles you recently read. How does each article justify the importance or “interestingness” of the research topic? In a sentence or two, paraphrase each author(s)’ justification of the given topic.

Research Design

February 2: Elements of Research Design

- Singleton and Straits, Ch. 4 “Elements of Research Design,” p. 77-114
- *King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research* (Princeton Univ. Press, 1994), 3-33.
- *de Vaus, David. *Research Design in Social Research* (London: Sage, 2001). 1-52.
- *Belkin, Aaron, and Philip E. Tetlock (1996) *Counterfactual Thought Experiments in World Politics* (Princeton: Princeton U. Press), Ch. 1.

ASSIGNMENT: Research Proposal Overview due in class at 2 pm.

February 9: Issues in Measurement

- Singleton and Straits, Ch. 5 “Measurement,” p. 115-149
- *Adcock, Robert, and David Collier. “Measurement Validity: A Shared Standard for Qualitative and Quantitative Research,” *American Political Science Review*, 95 (Sept., 2001), 529-46.
- *King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research* (Princeton Univ. Press, 1994), 75-206.

ASSIGNMENT: Paper 1 – From Ideas to Measurement (Required). Due electronically by 3 pm on Sunday, Feb. 8th.

February 16: PRESIDENTS DAY - NO CLASS

Methods of Data Collection

February 23: Experiments and Experimental Designs

- Singleton and Straits, Ch.7 “Experimentation,” p. 195-229
- Singleton and Straits, Ch. 8 “Experimental Designs,” p. 230-249 (read up until section on quasi-experimental designs).
- *Bhavnani, Rikhil R., “Do Electoral Quotas Work after They Are Withdrawn? Evidence from a Natural Experiment,” *American Political Science Review*, 103 (Feb, 2009), 23-36.
- *Iyengar, Shanto, Mark D. Peters, and Donald R. Kinder, et al. "Experimental Demonstrations of the 'Not So Minimal' Consequences of Television News," *American Political Science Review*, 76 (December, 1982), 848-58.
- *Erikson, Robert S., and Laura Stoker. “Caught in the Draft: the Effects of Vietnam Draft Lottery Status on Political Attitudes.” *American Political Science Review*, 105 (May 2011), 221-37.
- *Butler, Daniel M., and David E. Broockman. “Do Politicians Racially Discriminate Against Constituents? A Field Experiment on State Legislators,” *American Journal of Political Science* 55 (July 2011), 463-77.
- *Gerber, Alan S., Donald P. Green, and Christopher W. Larimer. “Social Pressure and Voter Turnout: Evidence from a Large-Scale Field Experiment.” *American Political Science Review*, 102 (February, 2008), 33-48.
- *Campbell, Donald T., and Julian C. Stanley. *Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs for Research* (Chicago: Rand McNally, 1966), 5-6. Handout.
- *Mutz, Diana. “Population-Based Experiments: A Hybrid Methodology for the Social Sciences,” in Mutz. *Population-Based Survey Experiments* (Princeton, 2011).

ASSIGNMENT: Paper 2 – Experimenting with Experimental Designs. Due electronically by 3 pm on Sunday, February 22.

March 2: Quasi-and Natural Experimental Designs

- Singleton and Straits, part of Ch. 8 on “Quasi-experimental Designs” (p. 250-262) and the section in Ch. 14 on “Methodological Issues in Evaluation Research” (p. 475-487).
- *Blattman, Christopher. “From Violence to Voting: War and Political Participation in Uganda,” *American Political Science Review*, 103 (May, 2009), 231-47.
- *Sekon, Jasjeet S., and Rocio Titiunik. “When Natural Experiments are Neither Nature nor Experiments,” *American Political Science Review*, 106 (February 2012), 35-57.
- *Beath, Andrew, Fotina Cristia, and Ruben Enikolopov. “Encouraging Women through Development Aid: Evidence from a Field Experiment in Afghanistan,” *American Political Science Review*, 107 (August, 2013), p. 4-27.
- *Morgan, Mary (2013) “Nature’s Experiments and Natural Experiments in the Social Sciences,” in *Philosophy of the Social Sciences*. 43(3) 341-357.
- *Jennings, M. Kent. “Residues of a Movement: the Aging of the American Protest Generation,” *American Political Science Review*, 81 (June, 1987), 367-82.
- *Hopkins, Daniel. “Translating into Votes: the Electoral Impacts of Spanish-Language Ballots,” *American Journal of Political Science* 55(Oct 2011), 813-29. Only pp. 813-21
- *Dunning, Thad. *Natural Experiments in the Social Sciences* (Cambridge University Press, 2012), 41-85.

ASSIGNMENT: Paper 3 – On the Relative Merits of Pre-experiments, Experiments, and Quasi-Experiments. Due electronically by 3 pm on Sunday, March 1.

March 9: Sampling: Selecting the Units for Study

- Singleton and Straits, Ch. 6 “Sampling,” 150-190
- *Baker, Reg, et al. “Summary Report of the AAPOR Task Force on Non-Probability Sampling,” *Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology*, 1 (November 2013), 90-105.
- *Biernacki, Patrick, and Dan Waldorf. “Snowball Sampling,” *Sociological Methods and Research*, 10 (November, 1981), 141-164.
- *Collier, David, and James Mahoney. “Insights and Pitfalls: Selection Bias in Qualitative Research,” *World Politics*, 49 (October, 1996), 56-91. **Only pp. 56-66**
- *Mahoney, James and Gary Goertz, “The Possibility Principle: Choosing Negative Cases in Comparative Research,” *American Political Science Review*, 98 (November, 2004), 653-669.
- *Geddes, Barbara. “How the Cases You Choose Affect the Answers You Get,” *Political Analysis*, 2 (1990), 131-148.
- *Lyall, Jason, Graeme Blair, and Kosuke Imai, “Explaining Support for Combatants during Wartime: A Survey Experiment in Afghanistan,” *American Political Science Review*, 107 (November 2013), only pp. 679-88
- *Henry, Gary T. *Practical Sampling* (Newbury Park, CA: Sage, 1990), 46-59.
- *Teske, Nathan. *Political Activists in America: The Identity Construction Model of Political Participation* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1997), Methodology Appendix.

ASSIGNMENT: Paper 4 – The Importance of Sampling. Due electronically by 3 pm on Sunday, March 8.

March 16: NO CLASS – Spring Break

March 23: Field Research: Observing Phenomena in Natural Settings

- Singleton and Straits, Ch.11 “Field Research,” p. 354-391
- *Bailey, Carol A. (2007) *A Guide to Qualitative Field Research* (London, UK Pine Forge Press). Ch 2-3, 5-10.
- *Walsh, Katherine Cramer. “Putting Inequality in Its Place: Rural Consciousness and the Power of Perspective,” *American Political Science Review*. 106 (July 2012), 517-532.
- *DeVolo, Lorraine Bayard, and Edward Schatz. “From the Inside Out: Ethnographic Methods in Political Research,” *PS*, 37 (April 2004), 267-72.
- *Rosenthal, C., Simon, J. and James A. Rosenthal. “Gendered Discourse in the Political Behavior of Adolescents,” *Political Research Quarterly* 56 (March 2003), 97-104.

ASSIGNMENT: Paper 5 - Observing the “Real” World. Due electronically by 3 pm on Sunday, March 22.

March 30: Survey Research, Interviews and Instrumentation: Modes and Designs

- Singleton and Straits, Ch. 9 “Survey Research,” p. 263-308
- Singleton and Straits, Ch. 10 “Survey Instrumentation,” p. 309-353
- *Posner, Daniel N. “The Political Salience of Cultural Differences: Why Chewas and Timbukas are Allies in Azmbia and Adversaries in Malwai,” *American Political Science Review*, 98 (November, 2004), 529-46. **Read only p. 529-32.**
- *Tsai, Lily L. “Solidary Groups, Informal Accountability, and Local Public Goods Provisions in China,” *American Political Science Review*, 101 (May 2007), 355-372.
- *Bateman, Regina. “Crime Victimization and Political Participation,” *American Political Science Review* 106 (August 2012), 570-87.
- *Jennings, M. Kent, Laura Stoker, and Jake Bowers. “Politics across Generations: Family Transmission Reexamined.” *Journal of Politics* 71 (July 2009), 782-799.
- *Mutz, Diana. “Execution of Population-Based Survey Experiments,” in Mutz, *Population-based Survey Experiments* (Princeton, 2011).
- *Sigel, Roberta. *Ambition and Accommodation: How Women View Gender Relations* (Chicago:Univ. of Chicago Press, 1996), 24-42.

ASSIGNMENT: Paper 6 - Asking Questions. Due electronically by 3 pm on Sunday, March 29.

April 6: Content Analysis and Archival Data: Research with Available Data

- Singleton and Straits, Ch.12 “Research Using Available Data,” p. 393-430
- *Caiani, Manuela, and Donatella della Porta. “The Elitist Populism of the Extreme Right: A Frame Analysis of Extreme Right-wing Discourses in Italy and Germany,” Acta Politica, 46 (April 2011), 180-202.
- *Nam, Taehyun (2006) “What You Use Matters: Coding Protest Data,” PS 39 (April)
- *Goldstein, Joshua, and Jon C. Pevehouse. "Reciprocity, Bullying, and International Cooperation: Time-Series Analysis of the Bosnia Conflict," American Political Science Review, 91 (September, 1997), 515-30. **Read only p. 518-23.**
- *Woolley, John T. "Using Media-Based Data in Studies of Politics," American Journal of Political Science, 44 (January, 2000), 156-73.
- *Druckman, Daniel. “Content Analysis,” in Daniel Druckman, Doing Research: Methods of Inquiry for Conflict Analysis (Thousand Oaks: Sage, 2005), 257-65.
- *Stewart, David, and Prem N. Shamdasani. Focus Groups: Theory and Practice (Newbury Park, CA: Sage Publications, 1990), ch. 3,6.
- *Winter, David G., and Brooke E. Sweet. “Measuring Implicit British Perceptions of German Intentions in 1938-1939.” Political Psychology, 30 (December, 2009), 839-62.

ASSIGNMENT: Paper 7 - Describing the Contents Due electronically by 3 pm on Sunday, April 5.

April 13: Case Studies and Intensive Approaches

- Gerring, John (2012) *Case Study Research: Principles and Practices*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Ch 1-5, 7.
- *Yin, Robert K. Case Study Research: Design and Methods, 3rd ed. (Beverly Hills: Sage Publications, 2003). Ch. 4-5.
- *de Vaus, David. Research Design in Social Research (London: Sage, 2001), chs. 13-14

ASSIGNMENT: Paper 8: Case Studies: When Less is More. Due electronically by 3 pm on Sunday, April 12.

April 20: Comparative and Mixed Method Research Designs and Problems

- Singleton and Straits, Ch.13 “Multiple Methods,” 431-460
- *Amel, Ahmed, and Rudra Sil. “When Multi-Method Research Subverts Methodological Pluralism—or Why We Still Need Single-Method Research,” *Perspectives on Politics*, 10 (December, 2012), 935-53.
- *Geddes, Barbara. *Paradigms and Sand Castles: Theory Building and Research Design in Comparative Politics*. (Ann Arbor: Univ. of Michigan, 2003), 148-173.
- *Lieberman, Evan (2005) “Nested Analysis as a Mixed-Method Strategy for Comparative Research,” *American Political Science Review*, 99 (August), 435-452. **Only 435-441.**
- *Katz, Aaron, Matthias vom Hau and James Mahoney (2005) “Explaining the Great Reversal in Spanish America: Fuzzy-set Analysis Versus Regression Analysis,” *Sociological Methods & Research* 33:539. **Only p. 3-33**
- *Hossain, Dewan (2012) “Mixed Method Research: An Overview,” *Postmodern Openings*. 3(December): 4, 137-151.
- Ragin, Charles. *The Comparative Method: Moving Beyond Qualitative and Quantitative Strategies* (Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, 1987), Ch.3.
- *Pennings, Paul, Hans Keman, and Jan Kleinnijenhuis. *Doing Research in Political Science: An Introduction to Comparative Methods and Statistics* (Sage, 1999), 3-50.
- *Coppedge, Michael, John Gerring, et al. “Conceptualizing and Measuring Democracy: A New Approach,” *Perspectives on Politics*, 9 (June 2011), 247-67.
- *Blaydes, Lisa, and Drew A. Linzer. “Elite Competition, Religiosity, and Anti-Americanism in the Islamic World,” *American Political Science Review*, 106 (May 2012), 225-43.

ASSIGNMENT: Paper 9 - Going Cross-National. Due electronically by 3 pm on Sunday, April 19.

Data Processing, Analysis and Interpretation

April 27: Creating the Final Product: Basic Processing, Analysis and Proposal Production

- Singleton and Straits, Ch.14 “Evaluation Research,” 461-494
- Singleton and Straits, Ch.15 “Data Processing and Elementary Data Analysis,” 495-535
- Singleton and Straits, Ch.17 “Writing Research Reports,” 568-582

ASSIGNMENT: Final Research Proposal due electronically by 3 pm on Sunday, April 26th