

Political Science 204A, Spring 2011

Research Design

Meetings: (all in Social Sciences Building Room 104)

Lectures: Tuesdays, 9-10:20am

Discussion: Thursdays, either 9-10:20 or 10:30-11:50

Thad Kousser

tkousser@ucsd.edu

858-534-3239

Office Hours: Thursdays, 1:30-3:30pm, SSB 369

The primary text for this course is available at the UCSD bookstore for purchase:

Trochim, William and James P. Donnelly. 2007. *The Research Methods Knowledge Base, 3rd Edition*. Cincinnati, OH, Atomic Dog Publishing.

All other readings for this course will be made available on the course website (<http://weber.ucsd.edu/~tkousser/PS204b.htm>) or in the graduate student lounge.

You are expected to read all assigned materials and to be prepared to discuss them at the class meeting for which they are assigned. While each week has lecture and discussion sections, be prepared to discuss the readings at any time. There are four assignments for the course, due as noted on the syllabus below. Late assignments will not be accepted. Each assignment will be worth 15% of your total grade, and the remaining 40% will be based on your participation in classroom discussions. Laptops will not be allowed during class meetings, since you actually need to print the readings out to read them as actively as a course like this requires.

Week 1 (March 29 and 31st): The Scientific Method

Lecture reading:

1. Trochim and Donnelly, Chapter 1

Discussion readings:

1. King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, Chapter 1.
2. Henry E. Brady and David Collier, editors, 2004. *Rethinking Social Inquiry: Diverse Tools, Shared Standards*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield. Chapter 1.
3. Friedman, Milton, 1953. The Methodology of Positive Economics, in *Essays in Positive Economics* by Milton Friedman.
4. Weingast, Barry. 1979. A Rational Choice Perspective on Congressional Norms. *American Journal of Political Science* 23: 245-62.

Week 2 (April 5 and 7): Methods of Observation

Lecture Readings:

1. Geertz, Clifford. Thick Description. In Geertz, Clifford. 1973. *The Interpretation of Cultures*. New York: Basic Books.
2. Curd, Martin and J. A. Cover. 1998. *Philosophy of Science: The Central Issues*.

New York: W. W. Norton. Chapters by Ruse, pp.38-47, Hempel and Snyder, pp.445-480.

Discussion Readings:

1. Fenno, Richard. US House Members in Their Constituencies: An Exploration. Reprinted in Weisberg et al.
2. White, Theodore H. 1961. *The Making of the President*, 1960. New York, Atheneum Publishers. Chapters 1-3.
3. Katzenstein, Peter J. 1985. *Small States in World Markets: Industrial Policy in Europe*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. Chapters 1-3.

Week 3 (April 12 and 14): Design, Validity, and Disconfirmation

Lecture Readings:

1. Trochim and Donnelly, Chapter 7.
2. Cook, Thomas D. and Donald T. Campbell. 1979. *Quasi-Experimentation: Design and Analysis Issues for Field Settings*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin. Chapters 1 and 2.

Discussion Readings:

1. Donald T. Campbell et al., "Connecticut Crackdown on Speeding," *Law and Society Review*, 1968.
2. Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce, et al. 2003. *The Logic of Political Survival*. MIT Press. Chapters 2, 4-5.
3. Bartels, Larry. 2005. "Homer Gets a Tax Cut: Inequality and Public Policy in the American Mind." *Perspectives on Politics* 3:1, 15-31.
4. Lupia et al. 2005. "Were Bush Tax Cut Supporters 'Simply Ignorant?' A Second Look at Conservatives and Liberals in 'Homer Gets a Tax Cut.'"

Week 4 (April 19 and 21): Experimental Design

Lecture Readings:

1. Trochim and Donnelly, Chapter 9
2. Donald R. Kinder and Shanto Iyengar, *News That Matters*, The University of Chicago Press, 1987, Chapter 2.
3. Green, Donald P. and Alan S. Gerber. 2002. Reclaiming the Experimental Tradition in Political Science. In *Political Science: State of the Discipline*, ed. by Ira Katznelson and Helen V. Milner. New York: W. W. Norton. Pp.805-32.

Discussion Readings:

1. Lupia, Arthur and Mathew D. McCubbins. 1998. *The Democratic Dilemma*. Cambridge University Press. Pp. 1-14, 101-148.
2. Kahneman, Daniel and Amos Tversky. 1979. Prospect Theory: An analysis of decision under risk. *Econometrica* 47: 263-292.
3. Edward Miguel and Michael Kremer. 2004. Worms: Identifying Impacts on Education and Health in the Presence of Treatment Externalities. *Econometrica* 72:159-217.

4. "Women as Policy Makers: Evidence from an India-wide Randomized Experiment," Raghavendra Chattopadhyay, NBER Working Paper 8615.
5. Sears, David O. 1986. "College Sophomores in the Laboratory: Influences of a Narrow Data Base on Social Psychology's View of Human Nature." *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 51:515-530.
6. Christopher Barrett and Michael Carter. "The Power and Pitfalls of Experiments in Development Economics: Some Non-random Reflections." *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy* (2010) volume 32, number 4, pp. 515–548.

Assignment #1 due on April 26: Take a well known theory of politics. Derive from it a hypothesis that is testable through an experiment. Design the basic outline of an experiment to test the hypothesis you derived.

Week 5 (April 26 and 28): The Theory of Measurement and Sampling

Lecture Readings

Required:

1. Trochim and Donnelly, Chapters 2, 3.
2. King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, Chapters 4-5.

Discussion Readings:

1. Christenfeld N., Philips, DP, and Glynn LM. "What's in a Name: Mortality and the Power of Symbols" *Journal of Psychosomatic Research*, 1999 Sep, 47(3): 241-54.
2. Gleditsch, Kristian, and Michael Ward. 1997. Double Take: A Re-examination of Democracy and Autocracy in Modern Politics. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 41:361-83.
3. Przeworski, Adam, et. al. 2000. *Democracy and Development*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 1, pp. 13-77.
4. Gastil, Raymond. 1986. Freedom in the World: Political Rights and Civil Liberties, 1985-1986. New York: Greenwood Press. Pp. 3-30.
5. Huber, John and Charles Shipan. 2002. *Deliberate Discretion? The Institutional Foundations of Bureaucratic Autonomy*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Pp. 44-77 and 171-83.
6. James H. Fowler and Sangick Jeon, 2008, "The Authority of Supreme Court Precedent," *Social Networks* 30: 16–30.

Assignment #2 due on May 10. Analyze the data provided on rule of law and assess its validity (see Keefer data on the website).

Weeks 6 and 7 (May 3 and 5, May 10): Quasi-Experimental Designs

Lecture Readings:

1. Trochim and Donnelly, Chapter 10.
2. Cook and Campbell. Chapters 3, 5.

May 5 Discussion Readings:

1. Crosier, Scott. *John Snow: The London Cholera Epidemic of 1854*. (on course website).

2. Jared Diamond, "A Natural Experiment of History," pp. 53-66 of *Guns, Germs and Steel*, W.W. Norton and Company, 1999.
3. Crook, Sara Brandes and John R. Hibbing, 1985. "Congressional Reform and Party Discipline: The Effects of Changes in the Seniority System on Party Loyalty in the US House of Representatives" *British Journal of Political Science* 15:207-226.
4. Posner, Daniel N. 2004. The Political Salience of Cultural Difference: Why Chewas and Tumbukas Are Allies in Zambia and Adversaries in Malawi. *American Political Science Review* 98, 4 (November): 529-545.

May 10 Discussion Readings:

1. Acemoglu, Daron, Simon Johnson, and James Robinson. 2001. The Colonial Origins of Comparative Development. *American Economic Review* 91: 1369-1401.
2. Donohue, John, and Steven Levitt. 2001. The Impact of Legalized Abortion on Crime. *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 116: 379-420.
3. Guido Imbens and Thomas Lemieux, "Regression Discontinuity Designs: A Guide to Practice," *Journal of Econometrics*, 142 (2008), pp. 615-635.
4. Richard A. Berk and Jan de Leeuw. 1999. "An Evaluation of California's Inmate Classification System Using a Generalized Regression Discontinuity Design," *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, Vol. 94, No. 448, pp. 1045-1052.

May 12: Take a well-deserved day off.

Assignment #3 due on May 19. Take an existing theory of politics. Derive a testable hypothesis from it. Design a quasi-experiment to test this hypothesis.

Week 8 (May 17-19): Qualitative Methods/Case Studies

Lecture Readings

1. Trochim and Donnelly, Chapters 6, 8.
2. King, Keohane, and Verba, Chapter 6.
3. Henry E. Brady and David Collier, editors, 2004. *Rethinking Social Inquiry: Diverse Tools, Shared Standards*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield. Chapters 2-3.

Discussion Readings:

1. Gourevitch, Peter Alexis. 1978. The International System and Regime Formation: A Critical Review of Anderson and Wallerstein. *Comparative Politics* 10: 419-38.
2. Geddes, Barbara. 1994. *Politician's Dilemma. Building State Capacity in Latin America*. Berkeley: UC Press. Chapters 1, 2, 5.
3. Dreze and Sen, "China and India" from *Hunger and Public Action*, Oxford University Press, 1989.

Assignment #4 due on May 31. Take an existing theory of politics. Derive a testable hypothesis from it. Design a case study to test this hypothesis.

Week 9 (May 24 and 26): Designing Validity

Lecture Reading:

1. Trochim and Donnelly, Chapters 11, 12.1.

Discussion Readings:

1. Den Hartog, Christopher and Nathan W. Monroe. 2005. "The Value of Majority Status: The Effect of Jeffords's Switch on Asset Prices of Republican and Democratic Firms." *Legislative Studies Quarterly*.
2. Daniel E. Ho, Kosuke Imai, Gary King and Elizabeth A. Stuart, "Matching as Nonparametric Preprocessing for Reducing Model Dependence in Parametric Causal Inference. *Political Analysis*, Vol. 15 (2007): Pp. 199-236.
3. Bratton, Michael and Nicolas van de Walle. 1997. *Democratic Experiments in Africa: Regime Transitions in Comparative Perspective*. Cambridge University Press. Chapter 3.

Week 10 (May 31 and June 3): The Role of Science

Lecture Readings:

1. Curd and Cover, Chapter 1: Popper, Kuhn, Lakatos; Chapter 2: Kuhn, Kuhn; Chapter 4: Lipton, Popper, Hempel.
2. Slantchev, Branislav L., Anna Alexandrova, and Erik Gartzke. 2005. Probabilistic Causality, Selection Bias, and the Logic of the Democratic Peace. *American Political Science Review* 99, 3 (August): 459-462.

Discussions Readings:

1. Green, Donald and Ian Shapiro. 1994. *Pathologies of Rational Choice*. New Haven: Yale University Press. Chapters 1-3, 8.
2. Cox, Gary. 1999. The Empirical Content of Rational Choice Theory: A Reply to Green and Shapiro. *Journal of Theoretical Politics* 11: 147-169. 462.
3. Beck, Nathaniel. 2010. "Causal Process "Observation" Oxymoron or (Fine) Old Wine" *Political Analysis* (18:4)499-505.
4. David Collier, Henry E. Brady, and Jason Seawright, "Outdated Views of Qualitative Methods: Time to Move On. *Political Analysis* (18:4)506-513.