
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:

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

Lecture Readings:
Discussion Readings:

Week 3 (April 12 and 14): Design, Validity, and Disconfirmation
Lecture Readings:
1. Trochim and Donnelly, Chapter 7.

Discussion Readings:

Week 4 (April 19 and 21): Experimental Design
Lecture Readings:
1. Trochim and Donnelly, Chapter 9

Discussion Readings:

Assignment #1 due on April 26: Take a well known theory of politics. Derive from it a hypothesis that is testable though 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.

**Discussion Readings:**

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:**

May 10 Discussion Readings:

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.

Discussion Readings:

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:

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.

Discussions Readings: