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


All other readings for this course are available on the course website.

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 20% of your total grade, and the remaining 20% will be based on your participation in classroom discussions.

**Week 1 (September 23 and 24): The Scientific Method**

Lecture readings:
1. Trochim and Donnelly, Chapter 1

Discussion readings:
Week 2 (September 30 and October 1): Methods of Observation and Inference

Lecture Readings:

Discussion Readings:

Week 3 (October 7 and 8): The Theory of Measurement, Sampling, and Scaling

Lecture Readings:
1. Trochim and Donnelly, Chapters 2, 3, and 5.

Discussion Readings:
Assignment #1 due on October 14. Identify a theoretical construct in political science. Discuss how it has been defined, operationalized, and validated in one or more studies. Provide a concrete plan for improved operationalization and validation.

**Week 4 (October 14 and 15): Design, Validity, and Disconfirmation**

Lecture Readings:
1. Trochim and Donnelly, Chapter 7.

Discussion Readings:

**Week 5 (October 21 and 22): Experimental Design**

Lecture Readings:
1. Trochim and Donnelly, Chapter 9

Discussion Readings:

Assignment #2 due on October 28: 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 6 (October 28 and 29): Quasi-Experimental Designs: Non-Equivalent Groups**

Lecture Readings:

1. Trochim and Donnelly, Chapter 10.

Discussion Readings:


**Week 7 (November 4 and 5): Quasi-Experimental Designs: Regression Discontinuity and Matching**

Lecture Readings:
Discussion Readings:

Assignment #3 due on November 11. Take an existing theory of politics. Derive a testable hypothesis from it. Design a quasi-experiment to test this hypothesis.

**Week 8 (November 11 and 12): Designing Validity**

Lecture Readings:
1. Trochim and Donnelly, Chapters 11, 12.1.

Discussion Readings:

**Week 9 (November 18 and 19): Qualitative Methods/Case Studies**

Lecture Readings
1. Trochim and Donnelly, Chapters 6, 8.

Discussion Readings:

Assignment #4 due on December 2. Take an existing theory of politics. Derive a testable hypothesis from it. Design a case study to test this hypothesis.

**Note: No class during Thanksgiving week (November 25 and 26)**

**Week 10 (December 2 and 3): The Role of Science and Scientific Discovery**

Lecture Readings:

Discussion Readings:
Supplementary materials available on the Internet:

An excellent introduction to statistics and research design is Statistics at Square One --
http://bmj.com/collections/statsbk/index.shtml, see especially Chapter 5 --
http://bmj.com/collections/statsbk/5.shtml

Good websites on statistics, econometrics, including free downloadable software for data
entry, data analysis, research design, hypothesis testing, document preparation and
presentation include:
http://davidmlane.com/hyperstat/index.html
http://members.aol.com/johnp71/javasta2.html#Freebies
http://lib.stat.cmu.edu/
http://www.american.edu/econ/notes/soft.htm

Online readings on the scientific method:
http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/lakatos/
http://galileoandeinstein.physics.virginia.edu/lectures/lecturelist.html
http://teacher.nsrl.rochester.edu/phy_labs/AppendixE/AppendixE.html
http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/popper/
http://www.brint.com/papers/science.htm
http://www.emory.edu/EDUCATION/mfp/Kuhnsnap.html
http://wwwcdf.pd.infn.it/~loreti/science.html

Useful online articles on qualitative research:
http://bmj.com/cgi/reprint/325/7357/210.pdf
http://bmj.com/cgi/reprint/320/7226/50.pdf
http://bmj.com/cgi/reprint/322/7294/1115.pdf
http://bmj.com/cgi/reprint/324/7344/1003.pdf