

Political Science 204A, Fall 2009

Research Design

Meetings: (all in Social Sciences Building Room 104)

Lectures: Wednesdays, 7-8:50

Discussion: Thursdays, either 10-10:50 or 11-11:50

Professors:

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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. An online edition is available for \$69.75, and a paperback and online edition for \$87.00. We recommend the latter so that you will have the book for future reference.

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:

1. Schwartz, Thomas. 1980. *The Art of Logical Reasoning*. New York: Random House. Pp.3-53, skim rest.
2. Friedman, Milton, 1953. The Methodology of Positive Economics, in Friedman, *Essays in Positive Economics*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.
3. Satz, Debra, and John Ferejohn. 1999. Rational Choice Theory and Folk Psychology. Unpublished ms.
4. Weingast, Barry. 1979. A Rational Choice Perspective on Congressional Norms. *American Journal of Political Science* 23:245-62.

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

Lecture Readings:

1. Geertz, Clifford. 1973. Thick Description, in Geertz, *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. 1977. U.S. House Members in Their Constituencies: An Exploration,” *American Political Science Review* 71, 3:883-917.
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, NY: Cornell University Press. Chapters 1-3.

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

Lecture Readings:

1. Trochim and Donnelly, Chapters 2, 3, and 5.
2. Goertz, Gary. 2006. *Social Science Concepts: A User’s Guide*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, Chapter 1.
3. 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. 1999. What's in a Name: Mortality and the Power of Symbols. *Journal of Psychosomatic Research*, 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. Freedom House, Freedom in the World: Methodology. Available at http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=351&ana_page=341&year=2008.
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.

7. Lake, David A. 2009. *Hierarchy in International Relations*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, Chapter 3, pp.63-92 (note: you may want to skim Chapters 1 and 2).

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

Discussion Readings:

1. Donald T. Campbell et al. 1968. "Analysis of Data on the Connecticut Speeding Crackdown as a Time-Series Quasi-Experiment," *Law and Society Review* 3, 1: 55-76.
2. Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce, et al. 2003. *The Logic of Political Survival*. Cambridge, MA: 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.' *Perspectives on Politics* 5, 4:73-784.

Week 5 (October 21 and 22): Experimental Design

Lecture Readings:

1. Trochim and Donnelly, Chapter 9
2. Donald R. Kinder and Shanto Iyengar. 1987. *News That Matters*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press. 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.
4. (recommended) Cook, Thomas D. and Donald T. Campbell. 1979. *Quasi-Experimentation: Design and Analysis Issues for Field Settings*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin. Chapter 8.

Discussion Readings:

1. Lupia, Arthur and Mathew D. McCubbins. 1998. *The Democratic Dilemma*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Pp. 1-14, 101-148.
2. Miguel, Edward and Michael Kremer. 2004. Worms: Identifying Impacts on Education and Health in the Presence of Treatment Externalities. *Econometrica* 72:159-217.
3. Tomz, Michael. 2007. Domestic Audience Costs in International Relations: An Experimental Approach. *International Organization* 61:821-840.
4. Kahneman, Daniel and Amos Tversky. 1979. Prospect Theory: An analysis of decision under risk. *Econometrica* 47: 263-292.
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.

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

Lecture Readings:

1. Trochim and Donnelly, Chapter 10.
2. Cook, Thomas D. and Donald T. Campbell. 1979. *Quasi-Experimentation: Design and Analysis Issues for Field Settings*. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin. Chapters 3 and 5.

Discussion Readings:

1. Crosier, Scott. *John Snow: The London Cholera Epidemic of 1854*.
2. Jared Diamond, "A Natural Experiment of History," in *Guns, Germs and Steel*. New York: W.W. Norton and Company, 1999, pp. 53-66.
3. Hyde, Susan. 2007. The Observer Effect in International Politics: Evidence from a Natural Experiment. *World Politics* 60:37-63.
4. 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.

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

Lecture Readings:

1. Trochim and Donnelly, Chapter 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. Lee, D.S., Moretti, E., and M. Butler, (2004), Do Voters Affect or Elect Policies? Evidence from the U.S. House, *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 119, 807-859.
4. Cellini, Stephanie Riegg, Fernando Ferreira, and Jesse Rothstein. 2009. The Value of School Facility Investments: Evidence from a Dynamic Regression Discontinuity Design. *Quarterly Journal of Economics* (forthcoming).

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:

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." Under review at *Legislative Studies Quarterly*.
2. Daniel E. Ho, Kosuke Imai, Gary King and Elizabeth A. Stuart. 2007. "Matching as Nonparametric Preprocessing for Reducing Model Dependence in Parametric Causal Inference. *Political Analysis* 15:199-236.
3. Bratton, Michael and Nicolas van de Walle. 1997. *Democratic Experiments in Africa: Regime Transitions in Comparative Perspective*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 3.

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

Lecture Readings

1. Trochim and Donnelly, Chapters 6, 8.
2. King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. Chapter 6.

3. Henry E. Brady and David Collier, eds, 2004. *Rethinking Social Inquiry: Diverse Tools, Shared Standards*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield. Chapters 1-3.

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.
4. Helen Milner. 1987. Resisting the Protectionist Temptation. *International Organization* 41:639-665.

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:

1. Curd, Martin and J. A. Cover. 1998. *Philosophy of Science: The Central Issues*. New York: W. W. Norton. Chapter 1: Popper, Kuhn, Lakatos; Chapter 2: Kuhn, Kuhn; Chapter 4: Lipton, Popper, Hempel.

Discussion Readings:

1. Green, Donald and Ian Shapiro. 1994. *Pathologies of Rational Choice*. New Haven, CT: 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.
3. 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: 459-462.

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.nsrj.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>