

**Political Science 680
Seminar in Research Design**

Fall 2007
Friday 2-4
3246 LSA

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The goal this semester is for you to develop abstract, portable standards for data worth collecting along with a practical sense of how one might go about collecting those data.

Books are available at Shaman Drum Bookshop. I've put the readings on reserve.

Course requirements:

- (1) Problem sets (handed out the week before they're due), graded pass/fail, due on email by noon on Thursday. No late papers accepted.
- (2) 2-page proposal for your final paper, due on Thursday, November 1st at noon, on email. Revised version for in-class workshop due on email by noon on November 29th.
- (3) Final paper, a research proposal that outlines an interesting and researchable question and sets out a plan for answering that question, not to exceed 20 double-spaced pages. Due in hard-copy form in my office by 4 p.m. on Thursday, December 13th. No late papers accepted. No incompletes.
- (4) Class participation.

September 7th. Introduction to the Class.

Recommended for basic literacy:

Kuhn, Thomas S. 1962. *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
Popper, Karl R. 1959/1939. *The Logic of Scientific Discovery*. New York: Harper. Chapters 1-7, 10.

September 14th. Political Inquiry, Multiple Methods, and the Experimental Ideal.

Abelson, Robert P. 1995. *Statistics as Principled Argument*. Hillsdale, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum. Pp. 158-169.

Kaplan, Abraham. 1964. *The Conduct of Inquiry*. San Francisco: Chandler. Pp. 18-33.

King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Pp. 3-12.

Almond, Gabriel A., and Stephen J. Genco. 1977. "Clouds, Clocks, and the Study of Politics." *World Politics* 29:489-522. JSTOR.

Recommended:

Hoyle et al. *Research Methods in Social Relations*. Chapter 1.

Ragin. *The Comparative Method*. Chapters 1-2.

Questions:

What do Almond and Genco mean by “clouds, clocks, and plastic control”? What do they mean by “same cause, same effect”?

You might like some of these pieces and be bothered by others. Nevertheless, find take-away points in each of them. Make them useful for you. What pieces in each of these readings – concepts, ways of seeing, etc. – do you want to take with you? Answer this question even for works that bug you.

How does Abelson think about what’s “interesting” and what’s “important”? Would his definitions fit with the science(s) outlined by the other folks here?

September 21st. Experiments and Causal Inference.

Kinder and Palfrey. 1993. “On Behalf of an Experimental Political Science.” In Kinder and Palfrey, eds., *Experimental Foundations of Political Science*.

Campbell and Stanley. 1966. *Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs for Research*. Pp. 1-22.

Shadish, Cook, and Campbell. 1979. *Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs for Generalized Causal Inference*. Pp. 1-26.

Spector. *Research Designs*. Chapters 1-3, 5-6.

Chong, Dennis, and James Druckman. 2007. “The Influence of Democratic Competition on Public Opinion.” Forthcoming, *APSR*. (Available at Nancy’s office.)

Research proposal, tba.

Recommended:

Hoyle et al. Chapters 2, 11, and 12.

Iyengar, Peters, and Kinder. 1982. “Experimental Demonstrations of the ‘Not So Minimal’ Consequences of Television News.” *APSR* 76:848-858. And “Comments” by David Blomquist in March 1984 *APSR*, 78:201-202. JSTOR.

September 28th. Near and Natural Experiments.

Campbell and Stanley. Pp. 34-57, 64-71.

Spector, Chapter 4.

Campbell, D.T., and Ross, H.L. 1970. “The Connecticut Crackdown on Speeding.” In E.R. Tufte, ed. *The Quantitative Analysis of Social Problems*. Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley. Pp. 110-125.

Research proposal, tba

Recommended:

Hoyle et al. Chapters 13 and 14.

October 5th. Using Statistics to Untangle Cause and Effect.

Kish, Leslie. 1970. "Some Statistical Problems in Research Design." In E.R. Tufte, ed., *The Quantitative Analysis of Social Problems*. Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley. Pp. 391-406.

Rosenstone and Wolfinger. 1978. "The Effect of Registration Laws on Voter Turnout. *APSR* 7:22-45. JSTOR.

Bartels, LM. 2000. "Partisanship and Voting Behavior, 1952-1996. *AJPS* 44:35-50. JSTOR.

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Recommended:

Brady, HE, and D Collier. 2004. *Rethinking Social Inquiry*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

October 12th. Large-Scale Comparisons.

Lijphart, A. 1971. "Comparative politics and the comparative method." *APSR* 65:682-693. JSTOR.

Jackman, Robert W. 1985. "Cross-national Statistical Research and the Study of Comparative Politics." *AJPS* 29:161-182. JSTOR.

Fearon, James. 1991. "Counterfactuals and Hypothesis Testing in Political Science." *World Politics* 43:169-195. JSTOR.

Putnam, Robert D. 1993. *Making Democracy Work*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

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Recommended:

Ragin. *The Comparative Method*. Chapters 3-5.

October 19th. Case Studies.

Eckstein, Harry. 1975. "Case Study and Theory in Political Science." In Greenstein and Polsby, eds. *Handbook of Political Science*, v. 7. Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley, Pp. 79-137.

Campbell, D.T. 1975. "Degrees of Freedom and the Case Study." *Comparative Political Studies* 8:178-93.

Achen and Snidal. 1989. "Rational Deterrence Theory and Comparative Case Studies." *World Politics* 16:143-69. JSTOR.

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Dahl, Robert A. 1961. *Who Governs?* New Haven: Yale University Press.

October 26th. Sampling.

Geddes, Barbara. 1990. "How the Cases You Choose Affect the Answers You Get." *Political Analysis* 2:131-150.

King, Keohane, and Verba. Pp. 128-149.

Hoyle et al. Chapters 8-10.

Heckathorn, Douglas. 1997. "Respondent-Driven Sampling: A New Approach to the Study of Hidden Populations." *Social Problems* 44(2, May):174-199. JSTOR.

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Gamson, William A. 1990. *The Strategy of Social Protest*, 2nd edition. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth. Pp. 1-37, 286-294.

Jennings, M. Kent, and Richard G. Niemi. 1974. *The Political Character of Adolescence*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. Pp. 25-31, 337-348.

November 2nd. Field Studies.

Wolcott. *Transforming Qualitative Data*. Intro to Part II and Chapter 6.

Bouchard, Thomas J. 1976. "Unobtrusive Measures." *Sociological Methods and Research*. 4:267-300.

Kaplan. Pp. 126-144.

Van Mannan, John. 1988. *Tales of the Field*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Chapters 2 and 3.

Hoyle et al. Chapters 15 and 16.

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Fenno, Richard. 1978. *Home-Style*. Boston: Little-Brown. Appendix.

November 9th. Interviews and Questionnaires.

Converse, Jean, and Howard Schuman. *Conversations at Random*. Chapters 2 and 5.

Converse, Jean, and Stanley Presser. 1986. *Survey Questions*. Beverly Hills: Sage.

Converse, Philip E. 1964. "The Nature of Belief Systems in Mass Publics. In D.E. Apter, ed. *Ideology and Discontent*. New York: Free Press.

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Luker, Kristin. 1984. *Abortion and the Politics of Motherhood*. Berkeley: University of California Press, Appendix 1.

Hochschild, Jennifer. 1981. *What's Fair?* Cambridge: Harvard University Press. 17-26, 228-237, Appendices A and B.

Recommended:

Rubin and Rubin. *Qualitative Interviewing*. Chapters 4, 6-7, 10.

November 16th. Measurement.

Kaplan. Pp. 171-178, 198-201.

Shively. *The Craft of Political Research*, 5th edition. Chapters 4-5.

King, Keohane, and Verba. Section 5.1.

Stevens, S.S. 1959. "Measurement." In C. West Churchman, ed., *Measurement*. New York: Wiley.

Hoyle et al. Chapters 4-7.

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Laitin, David. 1995. "Disciplining Political Science." *APSR* 89:454-56. JSTOR.

Rosenstone, S.J., et al. "Measuring Change in Personal Economic Well-Being." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 50:176-92. JSTOR.

Mondak, J. 2001. "Developing Valid Knowledge Scales." *AJPS* 45:224-238. JSTOR.
November 30th.

Baumgartner, Frank R., and Jack L. Walker. 1988. "Survey Research and Membership in Voluntary Organizations." *AJPS* 32:908-27. JSTOR.

November 23rd. Thanksgiving Break.

November 30th. Workshop.

Due November 29th at noon: 2-page summary of your final project.

Medawar, Peter. 1979. *Advice to a Young Scientist*. New York: Harper & Row.

December 7th. Workshop.

Campbell, D.T. 1969. "Ethnocentrism of Disciplines and the Fish-Scale Model of Omniscience." In Sherif and Sherif, eds. *Interdisciplinary Relationships in the Social Sciences*. Chicago: Aldine.

Converse, Philip E. 1986. "Generalization and the Social Psychology of 'Other Worlds.'" In Fiske and Shweder, eds. *Metatheory in Social Science*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Axelrod, Robert. 2007. APSA Presidential Address, to be distributed.

Thursday, December 13th, Papers Due at 4 p.m. at my ISR office.