

POLS 505
Research Design and Methods
Dr. Sultan Tepe
Unique Code: 16227
BSB 1115, Thursday 6:00-8:30
Office Hours: Tuesday 1:30-3:30 or by Appointment

Theory-neutral scientific instruments cannot exist. With further use of the instruments and methods the theory can fade from awareness, so the method can yield seemingly direct access to observed phenomena. In reading a thermometer one does not need to be aware of how Boyle's law is applying. The instrument can become like a window through which a room is viewed, the observer can let the instrument slip from awareness. John Dryzek

The purpose of this course is to acquaint students with the intellectual foundations of social science research and the varieties of approaches to its design, and to equip them with the necessary analytical tools to craft their own original research design. Extant debates in social science often confuse theory with the subject matter of inquiry, or method with the type of evidence used to argue a point. Different research communities stop questioning the assumptions behind their methodological approaches and often dismiss alternative tools of inquiry. Due to the divided nature of our field it is especially important for those starting their research to look at research paradigms without being bound by the limited scope of individual approaches. In order to disentangle the relation between theory and method, assess the limits of competing methodological approaches, and assist you in making your own informed independent methodological assessment we will (i) explore the epistemological foundations upon which methodological preferences are made (ii) develop a set of criteria to gauge the analytical capacity of rival research paradigms; (iii) review the challenges which arise when we apply certain methods in solving real political science puzzles; (iv) question the range of opportunities and obstacles posed by different research designs.

Accordingly, in the first part of the course we will discuss competing conceptions of social reality and their implications for the selection of research designs in political science. This part will show you how different methods draw on a set of a priori assumptions and, regardless of differences in their fundamentals, good research does not just happen but consists of a deliberately employed design to maximize the accuracy of the results. The second half of the course will focus on specific research methodologies such as survey design, case studies, experiments, large-sample, secondary data analyses, and hermeneutical approaches, any of which could be the focus of an entire course. We will delve into the basic rationale behind selected approaches and assess their limits and potentials by analyzing their various applications. In the last part we will concentrate on the questions of whether and how we can escape from methodological parochialism and integrate qualitative and statistical methods in designing and carrying out innovative research.

Assignments are designed to give you practice in identifying and evaluating the core components of research designs and allow you to take the necessary steps towards crafting an original research proposal throughout the semester. Weekly reaction papers will serve as a foundation for your short assignments. Each short assignment covers one of the main parts required in your final research proposal. At the end of the semester you will have a good understanding of the methodological debates, will be armed with a broad conceptual language to speak to different research communities, and will be able to draft a research proposal. More importantly, you will take important steps in designing your dissertation proposal or developing a publishable paper.

- ***Course Requirements***

This is the only required research design and method course in our Ph.D. program and gives you a rare opportunity to look at various methods and research fields together. The course requirements are chosen to allow you to develop your own research interest while exploring the fundamentals of constructing a thorough research design. Therefore, regardless of your specific research interest, this course will help you to develop a comprehensive research proposal

and become an informed reader of others' research. To ensure the quality of seminar participation and the final research design each student is required to submit a brief assessment of the assigned readings each week and four short papers (2-page, double-spaced, maximum)

- ***Seminar Attendance and Participation***

Approximately one fourth of your grade will be based on your seminar participation. Each student will be responsible for leading at least one class discussion during the course of the semester. You will be expected to raise questions for class discussions and provide a brief (15 minute) critical analysis of the assigned readings.

- ***Weekly Critical Assessment Papers***

Students will be responsible for completing a one-page critical assessment of the assigned readings each week. Your comments and questions regarding the assigned readings are expected to go beyond the simple description of "who said what?" Instead you are expected to focus on questions such as the following: Which conceptual questions does the author seek to answer? What is the empirical evidence used to substantiate the proposed arguments? Which approach does the author use to reach this evidence? What are the a-priori assumptions that guide his/her methodological approach? Can the chosen approach assure internal and external validity, and consistency? What are the limits of the research design? What others results would have been revealed if the author had chosen another approach?

This weekly assignment will be due no later than Monday at 3 p.m and submitted via email.

- ***Short Papers***

There will be three short assignments (3 pages maximum) in the course which will help you to complete your final project:

- *Problem Formulation:* In this assignment you will specify a particular political science question and discuss its conceptual foundations.
- *Literature Review:* there is a good chance that you are not the first one to raise the puzzle that you will be grappling with throughout the semester. This assignment requires you to describe scholarly works that tackle the same question. Your literature review should include a succinct yet detailed discussion of the solutions offered by others
- *Research Design:* You are asked to compare how one would answer your political science puzzle by using either a nomological, interpretive or critical research approach. Your discussion needs to include a review of the strengths and weaknesses of each choice. More details will be provided later in the semester.

- ***Final Paper***

Your paper must include: (i) statement of a political science puzzle, (ii) a critical literature review (iii) an accompanying research design. You should think of this assignment as an opportunity to craft a piece of original research which clearly states a set of hypotheses (plausible solutions to your puzzle) and a clear road map to corroborate or falsify these expected solutions. Ultimately, this paper should lead to a draft of your thesis proposal or a potential thesis topic.

- **Grading:**

Class Seminar Participation 25%; Weekly Papers: 35%; Research Paper: 40 %

- ***Required Texts:***

Russell Schutt, *Investigating the Social World: The Process of and Practice of Research*. Pine Forge Press; Thousand Oaks, 2004.

Gary King, Robert Keohane and Sydney Verba, *Designing Social Inquiry*, Princeton University Press, 1994.

The books are available for sale from the UIC book store. A course packet is available for purchase from Marla Lane and copies of Schutt and King, Keohane and Verba's books are available on reserve.

- **Suggested Text:**

Diane E. Schmidt, *Writing in Political Science*, Longman, 2005



The reading is available on line



The reading is in the course packet



The reading is in the required textbooks

January 12 Introduction

January 19 Foundations of Social Science Research



Shapiro, Ian, Problems, Methods, and Theories in the Study of Politics, or What's Wrong with Political Science and What to Do about It, *Political Theory* 30, no. 4 (2002) (Article First)



Dryzek, John; "The Mismeasure of Political Man," *Journal of Politics*; Aug88, Vol. 50 Issue 3, p705-726.



Claire Selltiz; Stuart W. Cook , "Can Research in Social Science be Both Socially Useful and Scientifically Meaningful" *American Sociological Review*, Vol. 13, No. 4. (Aug., 1948), pp. 454-459. (Database: Jstore)

- Russell Schutt's Chapter I, Science Society and Social Research and Chapter II the Process and Problems of Social Research
- KKV, Chapter I, The Science in Social Science,
- Hubert M. Blalock, Jr; *Basic Dilemmas in the Social Sciences*, London: Sage Publications, 1984, p.62-80.
- Daniel Little; *Microfoundations, Method, and Causation*, , Chapter 9 "Evidence and Objectivity in the Social Sciences," p.173-195

Optional Suggested Reading:



William E. Connolly, "Appearance and Reality in Politics," *Political Theory*, Vol. 7, No. 4. (Nov., 1979), pp. 445-468



Terence Ball, From Paradigms to Research Programs: Toward a Post-Kuhnian Political Science (in The Workshop), *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 20, No. 1. (Feb., 1976), pp. 151, Jstore



Gabriel A. Almond; Stephen J. Genco, "Clouds, Clocks, and the Study of Politics," *World Politics*, Vol. 29, No. 4. (Jul., 1977), pp. 489 JStore.




John G. Gunnell, "Encounters of a Third Kind: The Alienation of Theory in American Political Science" *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 25, No. 3., Aug., 1981, J Store.


January 26 Formulating Research Questions, Theory, and Hypotheses

- Stephen Van Evera; *Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science*, Chapter 1- Hypotheses, Laws, and Theories: A User's Guide, p.7-48;
- Daniel Little, Chapter 12- On the Scope and Limits of Generalization in the Social Sciences, p.237-256.

- Russell Schutt's Chapter 2 and The process and Problems of Social research, Chapter 4, Conceptualization and measurement
- KKV Chapter 4 and 5, Determining What to Observe and Understanding What to Avoid


 Kevin A. Clarke y and David M. Primo, University of Rochester, Modernizing Political Science: A Model-Based Approach

Optional Suggested Readings:

 William H. Harbold; Dell G. Hitchner, Some Reflections on Method in the Study of Politics, *The Western Political Quarterly*, Vol. 11, No. 4. (Dec., 1958), pp. 753, Database JStore


 Peter deLeon, "Democratic Values and the Policy Sciences," *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 39, No. 4. (Nov., 1995) Jstore

 Zachary Elkins, "Gradations of Democracy? Empirical Tests of Alternative Conceptualizations," *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 44, No. 2. (Apr., 2000), pp. 293 *Jstore*

 William G. Jacoby, "Levels of Measurement and Political Research: An Optimistic View (in Workshop)," *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 43, No. 1. (Jan., 1999), pp. 271

February 2 Causality

- Russell Schutt's Chapter 6, Causality and Causal Inference
- KKV, Chapter 3, Causality and Causal Inference
- Daniel Little, Chapter 10- Causal Explanation in the Social Sciences, p.197-214
Chapter 11- An Experiment in Causal Reasoning, p.215-235


 Mahoney James, Tentative Answers to Questions about causal Mechanism, APSA 2003 (available from Blackboard course site)

 Norman Jacobson, "Causality and Time in Political Process: A Speculation," *The American Political Science Review*, Vol. 58, No. 1. (Mar., 1964), pp. 15


February 9 Selecting your Cases


- Russell Schutt's Chapter 5, Sampling
- KKV Chapter 6, Increasing the Number of Observations

 John Gerring, Case Study Research: Principles and Practices, Cambridge 2006.

 Barbara Geddes, "How the Cases You Choose Affect the Answers You Get: Selection Bias in Comparative Politics." *Political Analysis* 2:131-52, 1990.

 James Mahoney, "Research Note: Insights and Pitfalls: Selection Bias in Qualitative Research," *World Politics*, v.49, n.1, (1996), p.56 (Data : First Search)

 Lustik, Ian S. 1996. "History, Historiography, and Political Science: Multiple Historical Records and the Problem of Selection Bias." *American Political Science Review* 90 (3): 605-18.

 Malcolm L. Goggin The "Too Few Cases/Too Many Variables" Problem in Implementation Research , *The Western Political Quarterly*, Vol. 39, No. 2. (Jun., 1986), pp. 328



R. Taagepera, "Learning Note: Ignorance-based Quantitative Models and their Practical Implications," *Journal of Theoretical Politics*, v.11, n.3, (1999), p.421 (Database: First Research)

February 16 Survey

- Russell Schutt's Chapter 8. Survey Research
- Frank Bechhofer and Lindsay Paterson, *Principles of research Design in the Social Sciences*, Representativeness and To interview not to Interview, pp30-70



Brady, Henry, "Contributions of survey research to political science," *Political Science & Politics*, 33, no. 1 (Mar 2000): p. 47, Database: ArticleFirst, JStore



T Phillips, Robert, "The politics of history: some methodological and ethical dilemmas in elite-based research," *British Educational Research Journal*, Feb98, Vol. 24 Issue 1, p5 ; (AN 273483) Data base *Academic Search Elite*



Deleon, Richard E. ; Naff, Katherine C., "Identity Politics and Local Political Culture: Some Comparative Results from the Social Capital Benchmark Survey," *Urban Affairs Review* 39, no. 6, 2004, Database: ArticleFirst.



Sanders, Lynn M., *Democratic Politics and Survey Research*, *Philosophy of the Social Sciences* 29, no. 2 (1999): 248-280 Database: ArticleFirst.



Robert L. Peabody; Susan Webb Hammond; Jean Torcom; Lynne P. Brown; Carolyn Thompson; Robin Kolodny, *Interviewing Political Elites* (in *The Profession*), *PS: Political Science and Politics*, Vol. 23, No. 3. (Sep., 1990) JStore

February 23 Experiments, Field Experiments, Quasi Experiments

- Russell Schutt's Chapter 7. Experiments



David A. Bositis, "Design Strategies for Theory Testing: The Efficient Use of Field Experimentation in Local Level Political Research," *Political Behavior*, Vol. 7, No. 4. (1985), pp. 374



Philip A. Michelbach; John T. Scott; Richard E. Matland; Brian H. Bornstein *Doing Rawls Justice: An Experimental Study of Income Distribution Norms* *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 47, No. 3., Jul., 2003. Article First, JStore



Wantchekon, Leonard, *Clientelism and Voting Behavior: Evidence from a Field Experiment in Benin*, *World Politics* 55, no. 3 (2003): 399-422



James N. Druckman, "On the Limits of Framing Effects: Who Can Frame?" *The Journal of Politics*, Vol. 63, No. 4. (Nov., 2001),



Allan H. Church, "Estimating the Effect of Incentives on Mail Survey Response Rates: A Meta-Analysis," *The Public Opinion Quarterly*, Vol. 57, No. 1. (Spring, 1993), pp. 62, JStore

March 2 Comparative Methods


Przeworski, Adam and Henry Teune. *Excerpts from The Logic of Comparative Social Inquiry: 3-30 and 74-76*. New York: Wiley, 1970. (a copy will be provided)




Russell Schutt's Chapter 11, *Historical and Comparative Methods*

- Frank Bechhofer and Lindsay Paterson; *Principles of Research Design in the Social Sciences*, London: Routledge, Chapter 1- Fundamentals: Comparison and Control, p.1-13;

 Snyder, Richard Source: Studies in Comparative International Development 36, no. 1 (Spring 2001): p. 93-110 (Data base: FirstSearch)


 The Many Voices of Political Culture: Assessing Different Approaches Author: Wilson, Richard W. Source: World Politics 52, no. 2 (2000): 246-273 ((Data base: FirstSearch)


 Daniel Druckman, "Turning Points in International Negotiation: A Comparative Analysis," *The Journal of Conflict Resolution*, Vol. 45, No. 4. (Aug., 2001), pp. 519.


 Erik Wibbels, "Federalism and the Politics of Macroeconomic Policy and Performance," *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 44, No. 4. (Oct., 2000), pp. 687


March 9 Interpretative and Hermeneutical Approaches (will be rescheduled)


- Russell Schutt's Chapter 9. Qualitative Methods: Observing, Participating, Listening
- Alfred Schutz, "Problems of Interpretive Sociology," in Alan Ryan (ed.); *The Philosophy of Social Explanation*, Oxford Reading in Philosophy, p. 203-219.
- Catherine Marshall and Gretchen B. Rossman; *Designing Qualitative Research*, 3rd Edition, Chapter 2- The "What" of the Study: Building the Conceptual Framework, p. 21-54; Chapter 3- The "How" of the Study: Building the Research Design, p.55-103.

 De Vreese, Claes H.; Peter, Jochen; Semetko, Holli A., "Framing Politics at the Launch of the Euro: A Cross-National Comparative Study of Frames in the News," *Political Communication*, Apr2001, Vol. 18 Issue 2, p107,


 Introduction to Hermeneutics and Expanding Hermeneutics available from the course Website


 Raymond A. Rocco, A Critical Perspective on the Study of Chicano Politics, *The Western Political Quarterly*, Vol. 30, No. 4. (Dec., 1977), pp. 558, J Store

 Dan B. Thomas; Larry R. Baas, "The Postelection Campaign: Competing Constructions of the Clinton Victory in 1992," *The Journal of Politics*, Vol. 58, No. 2. (May, 1996), pp. 309, Jstore

 Frederick A. Olafson, "Hermeneutics: "Analytical" and "Dialectical" *History and Theory*, Vol. 25, No. 4, Beiheft 25: Knowing and Telling History: The Anglo-Saxon Debate. (Dec., 1986), pp. 28, JStore

Optional Suggested Readings

 Veit Bader, Religious Pluralism: Secularism or Priority for Democracy? (in Religion, Toleration, and Politics), *Political Theory*, Vol. 27, No. 5. (Oct., 1999), pp. 597, J Store


 Keith Topper, In Defense of Disunity: Pragmatism, Hermeneutics, and the Social Sciences (in Taking Pragmatism Seriously), *Political Theory*, Vol. 28, No. 4. (Aug., 2000), pp. 509, J Store


March 16 Untangling Context, Structure and Agents: Ethnography, Participant Observation


- KKV Chapter II Descriptive Inference

 Risjord, Mark W. , "The Politics of Explanation and the Origins of Ethnography," *Perspectives on Science* 8, no. 1 (2000): 29-52, Database: Project Muse

 David A. Bositis, "Some Observations on the Participant Method," *Political Behavior*, Vol. 10, No. 4. (Winter, 1988), pp. 333

 Chadwick F. Alger, The World Relations of Cities: Closing the Gap between Social Science Paradigms and Everyday Human Experience, *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 34, No. 4. (Dec., 1990), pp. 493, J Store


 Joe Soss, "Lessons of Welfare: Policy Design, Political Learning, and Political Action," *The American Political Science Review*, Vol. 93, No. 2. (Jun., 1999), pp. 363 JStore


 Donald D. Searing, Roles, Rules, and Rationality in the New Institutionalism (in Articles), *The American Political Science Review*, Vol. 85, No. 4. (Dec., 1991), pp. 1239 Jstore


 Glaser, James M, "The Challenge of Campaign Watching: Seven Lessons of Participant-Observation Research", *PS, political science & politics*. 29, no. 3, 1996. Database: Article First


March 23 Spring Break


March 30 Formal Models, Rational Choice Gameetheoretical Approaches.

 Morris P. Fiorina, "Formal Models in Political Science" (in The Workshop), *erican Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 19, No. 1. (Feb., 1975), pp. 133 Database: Jstore

 Chalmers Johnson, "Preconception vs. Observation, or the Contributions of Rational Choice Theory and Area Studies to Contemporary Political Science," *PS: Political Science and Politics*, Vol. 30, No. 2. (Jun., 1997), pp. 170 Jstore


 Terry M. Moe, "On the Scientific Status of Rational Models (in The Workshop)," *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 23, No. 1. (Feb., 1979), pp. 215, Jstore

 Robert Grafstein, "Thick Rationality and the Missing "Brute Fact": The Limits of Rationalist Incorporations of Norms and Ideas," *The Journal of Politics*, Vol. 59, No. 4. (Nov., 1997), pp. 1040, Jstore


 Rasma Karklins; Roger Petersen, "Decision Calculus of Protesters and Regimes: Eastern Europe 1989," *The Journal of Politics*, Vol. 55, No. 3, Aug., 1993, pp. 588.

 Will H. Moore, "Rational Rebels: Overcoming the Free-Rider Problem (in Field Essay)," *Political Research Quarterly*, Vol. 48, No. 2. (Jun., 1995), pp. 417, Jstore


Other Suggested Readings

 Mark Irving Lichbach, "Will Rational People Rebel against Inequality? Samson's Choice," *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 34, No. 4. (Nov., 1990), pp. 1049, Jstore


Optional Suggested Readings:


 Erich Weede; Edward N. Muller, "Rebellion, Violence and Revolution: A Rational Choice Perspective," *Journal of Peace Research*, Vol. 35, No. 1. (Jan., 1998), pp. 43

April 6 Content, Discourse, and Textual Analysis

 Robert Edward Mitchell, "The Use of Content Analysis for Explanatory Studies," *The Public Opinion Quarterly*, Vol. 31, No. 2. (Summer, 1967), pp. 230, Database: Jstore

 John T. Woolley, "Using Media-Based Data in Studies of Politics (in Workshops)" *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 44, No. 1. (Jan., 2000), pp. 156 JStore

 Jeffrey T. Checkel, "Norms, Institutions, and National Identity in Contemporary Europe" *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 43, No. 1. (Mar., 1999), pp. 83, JStore

 Lee Epstein; Jeffrey A. Segal, "Measuring Issue Salience" *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 44, No. 1. (Jan., 2000), pp. 66-83, JStore

 Daniel Bar-Tal, "The Rocky Road toward Peace: Beliefs on Conflict in Israeli Textbooks" *Journal of Peace Research*, Vol. 35, No. 6. (Nov., 1998), pp. 723, JStore


 Dominick Lacapra, "Rethinking Intellectual History and Reading Texts," *History and Theory*, Vol. 19, No. 3. (Oct., 1980), pp. 245 JStore


Optional Reading:

 Kopelowitz, Ezra, *Religious Politics and Israel's Ethnic Democracy*, Israel Studies - Volume 6, Number 3, Fall 2001, pp. 166

April 13 Evaluation Research

- Russell Schutt Chapter 10

 A. J. Gregory; M. C. Jackson, **Evaluation Methodologies: A System for Use**, *The Journal of the Operational Research Society* Vol. 43, No. 1 (Jan., 1992), pp. 19, JStore


 Craig G. Heatwole; Lawrence F. Keller; Gary L. Wamsley, "Action Research and Public Policy Analysis: Sharpening the Political Perspectives of Public Policy Research," *The Western Political Quarterly* > Vol. 29, No. 4 (Dec., 1976), pp. 597


 Francis W. Hoole, "Evaluating the Impact of International Organizations," *International Organization* > Vol. 31, No. 3 (Summer, 1977), pp. 541


 Stephen Knack, "Social Capital and the Quality of Government: Evidence from the States," *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 46, No. 4, Oct., 2002, pp. 772


 Arthur S. Alderson, "Explaining Deindustrialization: Globalization, Failure, or Success?" *American Sociological Review*, Vol. 64, No. 5 (Oct., 1999), pp. 701


April 20 Unobtrusive Methods: Event Structure and Historical Process Research and Counterfactuals

 Lyn Ragsdale; John J. Theis, III, "The Institutionalization of the American Presidency, 1924-92," *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 41, No. 4. (Oct., 1997), pp. 1280


 Jarol B. Manheim; Robert B. Albritton, "Changing National Images: International Public Relations and Media Agenda Setting," *The American Political Science Review*, Vol. 78, No. 3. (Sep., 1984), pp. 641 JStore

 William A. Munro, "Power, Peasants and Political Development: Reconsidering State Construction in Africa" *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, Vol. 38, No. 1. (Jan., 1996), pp. 112

 Philip E. Tetlock, Theory-Driven Reasoning About Plausible Pasts and Probable Futures in World Politics: Are We Prisoners of Our Preconceptions? *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 43, No. 2. (Apr., 1999) JStore

 Stephen Ansolabehere; "James M. Snyder, Jr.; Charles Stewart, III, Candidate Positioning in U.S. House Elections," *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 45, No. 1. (Jan., 2001), pp. 136

Optional Suggested Readings:

 James D. Fearon, "Counterfactuals and Hypothesis Testing in Political Science," *World Politics*, Vol. 43, No. 2. (Jan., 1991), pp. 169-195

 David Strang, "From Dependency to Sovereignty: An Event History Analysis of Decolonization 1870-1987" *American Sociological Review*, Vol. 55, No. 6. (Dec., 1990), pp. 846

April 27 *Towards a Methodological Unity?*



Herbert M. Kritzer, “**The Data Puzzle: The Nature of Interpretation in Quantitative Research**” *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 40, No. 1. (Feb., 1996), pp. 1 JStore



Chattarjee Abhishek, and Shamira Gelbman, “Triangulation considered: The Hazard of Multi-method research,” APSA 2004.



Coppedge, Michael. 1999. Thickening thin concepts and theories - Combining large N and small in comparative politics. *Comparative Politics* 31 (4): 465- 76.



James Farr, “Situational Analysis: Explanation in Political Science,” (in Articles) *The Journal of Politics*, Vol. 47, No. 4. (Nov., 1985), pp. 1085

Optional Suggested Readings:



Marco R. Steenbergen; Bradford S. Jones, **Modeling Multilevel Data Structures** (in Workshops) *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 46, No. 1. (Jan., 2002), pp. 218-237.

TBA Final Paper Presentation

Prior to our meeting, each student will read a colleague’s paper and provide written comments. We will use the session to exchange suggestions.