POLI 204A
Research Design

Fall 2020
Friday 9-10:30am

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DESCRIPTION: This course provides an introduction to research design in political science. We address topics related to theory building and theory testing. The course focus is on the advantages and disadvantages of different approaches rather than on the technical issues related to these methods (which will be explored in different courses). Students will learn how to (a) analyze scholarly articles critically with particular attention to research design and (b) design an original research project.

REQUIREMENTS: You are expected to read all assigned materials and to be prepared to discuss them at the class meeting for which they are assigned. Most weeks have lecture and discussion sections, but a few have only one or the other. There are three assignments for the course, due as noted on the syllabus below. **Late assignments will not be accepted.** The first assignment will be worth 20% of your total grade, the second and third will both be worth 30%, and the remaining 20% will be based on your participation in classroom discussions.

Academic Integrity. It is your responsibility to inform me of any factor(s) that might interfere with your class performance well in advance of any problems. Under all circumstances, plagiarism is a violation of your academic integrity. If you have questions about what constitutes original research, or how to reference the work of others, please ask me.

Disability. If you are a student with a documented disability who will be requesting accommodations in my class, please make sure you are registered with the Office for Students with Disabilities (University Center 202; 858.534.4382) and provide me with documentation outlining your accommodations. I will be glad to meet with you privately during my office hours to

discuss your special needs.

READINGS: The primary text for this course is

> Trochim, William and James P. Donnelly. 2007. *The Research Methods Knowledge Base*, 3rd Edition. Cincinnati, OH, Atomic Dog Publishing.

Also recommended (purchase or borrow):

- Dunning, Thad. 2012. *Natural Experiments in the Social Sciences.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research.* Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- John Gerring. 2007. *Case Study Research: Principles and Practices.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (This book is available online through the library).

Most other readings are available on the TED website for the course.

SCHEDULE: The weekly schedule is subject to change.

Week 1 (1/8): The Scientific Method (Lecture only)

- Trochim and Donnelly, Chapter 1
- 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.
- King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. 1994. Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, Chapter 1.
- Friedman, Milton, 1953. The Methodology of Positive Economics, in Essays in Positive Economics by Milton Friedman.
- Weingast, Barry. 1979. A Rational Choice Perspective on Congressional Norms. American Journal of Political Science 23: 245-62.

Week 2 (1/15): Observation, Method, and Construct Validity

Assignment 1:

Assess the validity and reliability of the IRIS dataset on quality of governance (ICRG), to be provided. Due January 22, 2020.

Lecture Readings:

- Trochim and Donnelly, Chapter 3 (skip 3-1d through 3-1g).
- King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. 1994. Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, Chapter 5, section 5.1 on measurement error.
- Cook, Thomas D. and Donald T. Campbell. 1979. Quasi-Experimentation: Design and Analysis Issues for Field Settings. Boston: Houghton Mifflin. Pages 59-70.
- Adcock, Robert and David Collier. 2001. "Measurement Validity: A Shared Standard for Qualitative and Quantitative Research." American Political Science Review 95(3), September: 529-546.

Discussion Readings (focus on measurement strategies):

- Fenno, Richard. US House Members in Their Constituencies: An Exploration. Reprinted in Weisberg at. al.
- Gastil, Raymond. 1986. Freedom in the World: Political Rights and Civil Liberties, 1985-1986. New York: Greenwood Press. Pp. 3-30.
- James H. Fowler and Sangick Jeon, 2008, "The Authority of Supreme Court Precedent," Social Networks 30: 16–30.
- Cottler, Linda B., Shaun Ajinkya, Bruce A. Goldberger, Mohammad Asrar Ghani, David M Martin, Hui Hu, Mark S. Gold. 2014. "Prevalence of drug and alcohol use in urban Afghanistan: epidemiological data from the Afghanistan National Urban Drug Use Study (ANUDUS)." Lancet Global Health 2014; 2: e592-600.
- King, Gary, Jennifer Pan, and Margaret E. Roberts. 2013. How Censorship in China Allows Government Criticism but Silences Collective Expression. American Political Science Review 107(2): 1-18.

Week 3 (1/22): Sampling and External Validity (Lecture Only)

- Fowler, Floyd J. 2009. Survey Research Methods, 4th Edition. Thousand Oaks: Sage. Chapters 1-3.

- Trochim. Chapter 2.
- Beber, Bernd, Philip Roessler, and Alexandra Scacco. 2013. "Intergroup Violence and Political Attitudes: Evidence from a Dividing Sudan." Unpublished manuscript.

Week 4 (1/29): Causal Inference; Introduction to Experiments (Lecture Only)

- Trochim. Chapter 7 (skip 161-171); Chapter 9; Chapter 12, pp. 253-260.
- Gertler, Paul et al. 2011. Impact Evaluation in Practice. Chapter 3. Washington, DC: World Bank.
- Cook, Thomas D. and Donald T. Campbell. 1979. Quasi-Experimentation: Design and Analysis Issues for Field Settings. Boston: Houghton Mifflin. Chapter 1 (all) and Ch 2 (pp. 37-50, from "Statistical Conclusion Validity" to the beginning of "Internal Validity".)

Week 5 (2/5): Randomized Controlled Trials

Lecture Readings:

- Gertler, Paul et al. 2011. Impact Evaluation in Practice. Chapter 4. Washington, DC: World Bank.
- Duflo, Esther Rachel Glennerster and Michael Kremer. 2008. "Using Randomization in Development Economics Research: A Toolkit." Chapter 61 in Handbook of Development Economics, Vol. 4.
- Humphreys, Macartan, and Jeremy M. Weinstein. 2009. "Field Experiments and the Political Economy of Development." Annual Review of Political Science 12:367-78.

Discussion Readings:

- Dammert, Ana C, Jose C Galdo, and Virgilio Galdo. 2014. "Preventing Dengue Through Mobile Phones: Evidence From a Field Experiment in Peru." Journal of Health Economics 35: 147–61.
- Olken, Ben. 2007. "Monitoring Corruption: Evidence from a Field Experiment in Indonesia." Journal of Political Economy. 115(2): 200-250.

Week 6 (2/12): Design (Part II): Survey Experiments

Assignment 2:

Design an experiment; Discuss sampling strategies and power considerations. Due February 26, 2020.

Lecture Readings:

- Mutz, Diana C. Population Based Survey Experiments. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapters 1-4.
- Barabas, Jason, and Jennifer Jerit. 2010. "Are Survey Experiments Externally Valid?" American Political Science Review 104(2): 226-42.

Discussion Readings:

- Ferree, Karen E., Clark Gibson and James Long. 2019. "Why Performance Voters May Sometimes Vote Ethnically: Mixed Records, Complexity, and Candidate Choice in Africa." Working Paper, 2019
- Frye, Timothy. 2006. "Original Sin, Good Works, and Property Rights in Russia." World Politics 58(4): 479-504.

Week 7 (2/12, 12-3p): Natural Experiments

Lecture Readings:

- Dunning, Thad. Natural Experiments in the Social Sciences. Chapters 1-5 and 8.
- Trochim. Chapter 10, pp. 215-222.
- Gertler, Paul et al. 2011. Impact Evaluation in Practice. Chapter 5. Washington, DC: World Bank.

Discussion Readings:

- Duflo, Esther and Raghabendra Chattopadhyay. 2004. "Women as Policy Makers: Evidence from a Randomized Policy Experiment in India." Econometrica 72(5): 1409-1443.
- Blattman, Christopher. 2009. "From Violence to Voting: War and Political Participation in Uganda." American Political Science Review 103(2): 231-247.
- Lemieux, Thomas and Kevin Milligan. 2008. "Incentive Effects of Social Assistance: A Regression Discontinuity Approach." Journal of Econometrics 142: 807–828.
- Miguel, Edward, Shankar Satyanath, and Ernest Sergenti. "Economic Shocks and Civil Conflict: An Instrumental Variables Approach." Journal of Political Economy, 2004, 112(4): 725-753.

Week 8 (2/26): Quasi Experiments

Lecture Readings:

- Trochim. Chapter 7 161-171, Chapter 10 (except 215-222).
- Cook and Campbell. Chapters 3 (skip RDD), 5.
- Gertler, Paul et al. 2011. Impact Evaluation in Practice. Chapters 6 and 7. Washington, DC: World Bank.

Discussion Readings

- Donald T. Campbell et al., "Connecticut Crackdown on Speeding," Law and Society Review, 1968.
- Jalan, Jyotsna and Martin Ravallion. "Does Piped Water Reduce Diarrhea for Children in Rural India?" Journal of Econometrics 112 (2003) 153 – 173.
- Bellows, John and Edward Miguel. 2009. "War and local collective action in Sierra Leone." Journal of Public Economics 93: 1144-1157.
- Futch, Michael Douglas, and Craig Thomas McIntosh. 2009. "Tracking the Introduction of the Village Phone Product in Rwanda." Information Technologies & International Development 5(3): 54–81.

Week 9 (3/3): Causal Inference and Case Selection in Small n Designs

Lecture Readings:

- Gerring, John. 2007. Case Study Research: Principles and Practices. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1-2, 5.
- King, Keohane, and Verba, Chapters 4 and 6.

Discussion Readings:

- Lieberman, Evan S. 2003. Race and Regionalism in the Politics of Taxation in Brazil and South Africa. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1 and 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 10 (3/11): Mixed Methods Designs/Wrap-up

Assignment 3:

Design a mixed methods project that involves a large n natural or quasi experiment and one or more case studies. Due March 18.

- Dunning, Chapter 7.
- Gerring, John. 2007. Case Study Research: Principles and Practices. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 3 and 7.
- Rao, Vijayendra and Michael Woolcock. "Integrating Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches in Program Evaluation."
- Freedman, David. 1991. "Statistical Models and Shoe Leather." Sociological Methodology, Vol. 21: 291-313.

Discussion Readings:

- Jamison, Julian, Dean Karlan, and Pia Raffler. "Mixed Method Evaluation of a Passive Mhealth Sexual Information Texting Service in Uganda." Working Paper: 36.
- Haggard, Stephan, and Robert R. Kaufman. 2012. "Inequality and Regime Change: Democratic Transitions and the Stability of Democratic Rule." American Political Science Review 106(3): 495-516.
- Any other papers we did not get to earlier in quarter, or you want to talk about.