Political Science 204A, Winter 2015
Research Design

Meetings: Wednesday, 9:00-11:50am; Social Sciences Building Room 104
Instructor: Karen Ferree keferree@ucsd.edu
Office Hours: TBA, SSB 391


Also recommended (purchase or borrow):
- John Gerring. 2007. Case Study Research: Principles and Practices. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (This is available on-line through the library).

Most other readings are available on line. More obscure selections are available through me (plan ahead!).

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 third and fourth will both be worth 30%, and the remaining 20% will be based on your participation in classroom discussions.

Laptops will not be allowed during lectures.

Week 1 (January 7): The Scientific Method. (Lecture only).
Lecture reading:
1. Trochim and Donnelly, Chapter 1

Week 2 (January 14): Observation, Measurement, and Construct Validity
Lecture Readings:
1. Trochim and Donnelly, Chapter 3 (skip 3-1d through 3-1g).


**Discussion Readings: (focus on measurement strategies)**


**Assignment 1:** Assess the validity and reliability of the IRIS dataset on quality of governance (ICRG), to be provided. Due January 21.

**Week 3 (January 21): Sampling and External Validity (Lecture Only)**

**Lecture Readings:**


**Week 4 (January 28): Causal Inference; Introduction to Experiments (Lecture Only)**

**Lecture Readings:**

1. Trochim. Chapter 7 (skip 161-171); Chapter 9; Chapter 12, pp. 253-260.

**Week 5 (February 4): Randomized Controlled Trials**

**Lecture Readings:**

**Discussion Readings:**

**Week 6 (February 11): Survey Experiments**

**Lecture Readings**

**Discussion Readings**

**Assignment 2: Design an experiment; Discuss sampling strategies and power considerations. Due February 18.**

**Week 7 (February 18): Natural Experiments**

**Lecture Readings**

**Discussion Readings**


**Week 8 (February 25): Quasi Experiments**

**Lecture Readings:**
2. Cook and Campbell. Chapters 3 (skip RDD), 5.

**Discussion Readings:**

**Week 9 (March 4): Case Selection in Small n Designs**

**Lecture Readings**
2. King, Keohane, and Verba, Chapters 4 and 6.

**Discussion Readings**
**Week 10 (March 11): Mixed Methods Designs**

**Lecture:**
2. Dunning, Chapter 7.

**Discussion:**
2. Any other papers we did not get to earlier in quarter, or you want to talk about.

**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.