

POS 6736 Section 3293
 Wednesdays 3 pm to 6 pm, Anderson 019 / 216
 Fall 2014

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Office Hours: 208 Anderson Hall
 Wednesday, 10 a.m. to noon
 Thursday, 10:45 to 11:45 am

Conduct of Inquiry

Goal of the course

Why do we call our discipline "political *science*"? What kinds of research do political scientists do, and how do they communicate that knowledge to one another? How do we know what we think we know? How do we measure political phenomena? How would we know if a new public policy "worked"? Why didn't the polls in this year's midterm election call any of the members of this seminar? How do we analyze data, and what are good data to analyze? Are ethics as hard to define for political scientists as they are for political campaigners?

During the course of the semester, we will discuss these issues and others. Our discussions, the readings, various written assignments, computer assignments, the final exam, and the final research paper will facilitate your becoming intelligent consumers of political science research, as well as help you become producers of your own research. The skills that you develop in the course will help you understand the literature that you read in substantive seminars, help you evaluate that research, enable you to better understand the assumptions behind each research design, introduce you to data management using a popular statistical package, help you find published research and data archives on topics that interest you, and familiarize you with some of the techniques used in individual and aggregate level analysis.

My only assumption is that participants in the seminar are intelligent, motivated students beginning a Ph.D. program or an M.A. program (Public Affairs, Political Campaigning, or International Relations). For many students, this will be an entirely different kind of course. Many good undergraduate lecture courses and graduate seminars require you to become knowledgeable about a field, such as Political Behavior, Public Policy, or International Relations. In this course, we are not focused on a particular field, but are more interested in understanding the methods that political scientists in all fields use to understand and build knowledge. Of course, new things can be both exciting and frightening. Any trepidation that you may have is best overcome by "feeling the fear, and doing it anyway." The excitement will come with the realization that this knowledge is empowering, in that it will enable you to find, read, and understand research on your own. You will also begin to produce this kind of research, which will give you a product of your own labors.

Requirements

In order to meet these goals, participants in the seminar will be required to

- **Attend and participate in seminar (10%).** Every person should come to seminar prepared to comment on the assigned readings, and help others to understand the concepts presented in the readings and assignments. Research is not a spectator sport, so you should expect me to ask for your contributions on a regular basis. Some time in seminar will be devoted to lecture, but your participation in this course is expected to be that of an "active learner". **Any absence from seminar requires a prompt explanation.** Multiple absences seriously jeopardize the prospect for successful completion of the course.
- **Write occasional assignments (30% cumulative).** Some assignments are short essays (roughly 5 pages), and others are exercises using data. Written assignments are announced on this syllabus. Data assignments will be announced in class. All completed assignments must represent each participant's own and sole work, unless otherwise directed.
- **Complete an Examination (35%).** December 3 during classtime.
- **Write a Research Paper (25%).** Each participant will be required to submit a research paper. Papers will be judged on readability, the appropriateness of the research question, the suitability of the design for that question, the interpretation of the analysis, and (if appropriate) the feasibility of extending the analysis in an M.A. Thesis or Ph.D. dissertation. Guidelines for the paper are posted [here](#). **Due noon Monday, December 8**

Readings and Resources

- Johnson, Janet Buttolph and H. T. Reynolds. 2012. *Political Science Research Methods*. Seventh Edition. CQ Press. [ISBN 978-1-60871-689-0](#)
- Kirkpatrick, Lee A. and Quentin Kidd. 2013. A Simple Guide to SPSS® for



978-1-11135-379-

Political Science. Wadsworth Cengage. ISBN 7



- You will also be required to access numerous journal articles, which are generally available electronically through access to E-Learning. If you prefer reading (and paying for) hardcopy, an optional coursepack that contains should be available at Target Copy (1412 W University Ave.). **The coursepack is under the course number POS 4734, and it contains many, but not all, of the required readings.**
- You will also learn some basic data analysis using SPSS. Students should load this program onto a laptop or tablet (with wireless capability) that they can bring to class when announced. SPSS is available
 - in the UF Apps package (free, and can be used on a Windows, Mac, or tablet, but can be slow)
 - for lease (to November 30 plus 60 day grace period) from UF Software Services for use on your laptop or home computer (\$35 plus tax)
 - for six-month lease from Onthehub for use on your laptop or home computer (\$38 + \$4.99 download fee)
 - in the Academic Technology labs around campus (free, but you will also need a version on your laptop or tablet that you can bring to class).
- listserv - Registered students in the class are enrolled on the class listserv. Messages from the listserv are sent to students' Gatorlink email addresses (eg., youhoo@ufl.edu), and students should check that email regularly.
- E-Learning - I will also post some materials, assignments, assignment inboxes, and grades on the class E-Learning - Canvas site. Log in at <http://lss.at.ufl.edu>

The following is a tentative calendar, and dates on assignments are especially subject to revision. Readings marked with an asterisk (*) are included in the Target Copy coursepack.

August 27	Is Political Science an Oxymoron? Introduction to the course: What kinds of research do political scientists do? How do they present their work?
Sep 3	Anatomy of a Research Article Read: Johnson and Reynolds, Chapters 1 and 2 * Hall, Melinda Gann. 1992. "Electoral-Politics and Strategic Voting in State Supreme Courts." <i>Journal of Politics</i> 54 (2, May): 427-446. * Most, Benjamin A. 1990. "Getting started on political research." <i>PS: Political Science & Politics</i> 23 (4, December), 592-596. Kirkpatrick, Lee A. and Quentin Kidd. Chapter 1. Bound copies of most journals should be available in <u>Library West</u> . Be prepared to discuss: (1) Describe Hall's article, outlining its component parts. What is Hall's main "theory"? Does she have a "theory", in the sense that term is used by Johnson and Reynolds (Chapter 2) ? (2) What are Hall's hypotheses? How does she test them? (3) If Most were advising Hall on where to go next in her research on electoral motivations for judicial behavior, what directions would be scientifically fruitful? Have SPSS loaded onto your laptop or tablet ready to use, and bring it to class.

	<p style="text-align: center;">Researchers as Readers: Literature Review</p> <p>Read: Johnson and Reynolds, Chapter 3</p> <p>Knopf, Jeffrey W. 2006. "Doing a Literature Review." <i>PS-Political Science & Politics</i> 39 (1, January): 127-132.</p> <p>Kirkpatrick, Lee A. and Quentin Kidd. Chapter 2.</p> <p>Followup Assignment Due (Sept 15; 6%) - Write a short literature review that reviews one of the following optional journal articles, at least one journal article which was cited by the selected article, and at least one journal article that cited the selected article. Your review should explain whether the ideas and methods represented in the three (or more) articles are cumulative, and if so, how the ideas (or methods) from later articles were developed from ideas in earlier articles. Your review should close with your thoughts on avenues for future research in the subfield. I expect good papers will be five to seven pages.</p> <p>Optional journal articles:</p> <p>Boettcher, William A., III, and Michael D. Cobb. 2009. "'Don't Let Them Die in Vain' Casualty Frames and Public Tolerance for Escalating Commitment in Iraq." <i>Journal of Conflict Resolution</i> 53 (5, October): 677-697.</p> <p>Koch, Jeffrey W. 2000. "Do Citizens Apply Gender Stereotypes to Infer Candidates' Ideological Orientations?" <i>Journal of Politics</i> 62 (2, 2000): 414-429.</p> <p>Mitchell, Sara McLaughlin. 2002. "A Kantian System? Democracy and Third-Party Conflict Resolution." <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> 46 (4, October): 749-759.</p>
<p>Sept 17</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Researchers as Theorists: Hypotheses, Concepts, and Variables</p> <p>Read: Johnson and Reynolds, Chapter 4</p> <p>Kirkpatrick and Kidd, Chapter 3.</p> <p>Be prepared to discuss: What are the characteristics of good hypotheses? What is Hall's (1993) unit of analysis?</p> <p>Followup Assignment Due (Sept 22; 4%): Find an existing dataset somewhere</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in the ICPSR archive (www.icpsr.umich.edu) • American National Election Study (www.electionstudies.org) • Quality of Government Institute data (http://www.qog.pol.gu.se/) • or a publicly available dataset you have found in the readings <p>Propose two hypotheses that you could test with that dataset. For each hypothesis, tell me</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The dataset that you are proposing to use 2. The unit of analysis 3. The independent variable(s) 4. The dependent variable(s)
<p>Sept 24</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Researchers as Counters: Measurement</p> <p>Read: Johnson and Reynolds, Chapter 5</p> <p>Kirkpatrick and Kidd, Chapter 4.</p> <p>* Delli Carpini, Michael X. and Scott Keeter. 1993. "Measuring Political Knowledge: Putting First Things First." <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> 37 (4, November): 1179-1206.</p> <p>* Epstein, Lee, and Jeffrey A. Segal. 2000. "Measuring Issue Salience." <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> 44 (1, January): 66-83.</p> <p>Hamm, Keith E., Ronald D. Hedlund, and Nancy Martorano. 2006. "Measuring State Legislative Committee Power: Change and Chamber Differences in the 20th Century." <i>State Politics & Policy Quarterly</i> 6 (1, Spring): 88-111.</p> <p>Be prepared to discuss: What are the principal desirable characteristics of social science measures? What are the differences between those characteristics? What measurement issues are important in developing good measures of political knowledge, issue salience, and committee power? Do Hall's measures have desirable characteristics? How do you know, or how could you know?</p>

	<p>Followup Assignment Due (Sept 29; 4%): For each of the following variables in the designated datasets, (1) identify the unit of analysis and (2) present appropriate univariate statistics (either frequencies or descriptives) to describe the univariate distribution.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The feeling thermometer for Sarah Palin in the 2008 American National Election Study. • The Freedom House Political Rights measure (fh_pr) in the Quality of Government basic dataset (http://www.qog.pol.gu.se/data/datadownloads/qogbasicdata/) • The percent of state legislatures that are women (WOMENLEG) in the State Politics and Policy Quarterly dataset (http://academic.udayton.edu/sppq-TPR/tp_r_data_sets.html)
<p>Oct 1</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Researchers as manipulators: Experiments</p> <p>Read: Johnson and Reynolds, Chapter 6 (pp. 165 - 193)</p> <p>* Kinder, Donald R., and Thomas R. Palfrey. 1993. "On Behalf of an Experimental Political Science." In <i>Experimental Foundations of Political Science</i>. Eds. Donald R. Kinder, and Thomas R. Palfrey. Ann Arbor, Michigan: University of Michigan Press. pp. 1-39.</p> <p>* Majeski, Stephen J. and Shane Fricks. 1995. "Conflict and Cooperation in International Relations." <i>Journal of Conflict Resolution</i> 39 (4, December): 622-645.</p> <p>Black, Dan A. , Jeffrey A. Smith, Mark C. Berger, and Brett J. Noel. 2003. "Is the Threat of Reemployment Services More Effective Than the Services Themselves? Evidence from Random Assignment in the UI System." <i>American Economic Review</i> 93 (4, November): 1313-1327.</p> <p>* King, David C. and Richard E. Matland. 2003. "Sex and the Grand Old Party - an Experimental Investigation of the Effect of Candidate Sex on Support for a Republican Candidate." <i>American Politics Research</i> 31 (6, November): 595-612.</p> <p>Kirkpatrick and Kidd, Chapter 5.</p> <p>Be prepared to discuss: What are the essential characteristics of an experiment, and what are the basic strengths and weaknesses of an experimental research design as compared to non-experimental designs? Evaluate those strengths and weaknesses with respect to the assigned articles. How is the independent variable manipulated, and how is the dependent variable measured? Is Hall (1992) an experiment? Why or why not?</p> <p>Followup Assignment (Oct 6; 3%) - Use the King - Matland dataset to replicate their key findings.</p>
<p>Oct 8</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Researchers drawing inferences: Observational Designs</p> <p>Read: Johnson and Reynolds, Chapter 6 (pp. 194 - 221)</p> <p>* Drury, A. Cooper, Richard Stuart Olson, and Douglas A. Van Belle. 2005. "The Politics of Humanitarian Aid: US Foreign Disaster Assistance, 1964-1995." <i>Journal of Politics</i> 67 (2, May): 454-473.</p> <p>* Stratmann, Thomas and Martin Baur. 2002. "Plurality Rule, Proportional Representation, and the German Bundestag: How Incentives to Pork-Barrel Differ across Electoral Systems." <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> 46 (3, July): 506-514.</p> <p>Choi, C., C. C. Turner, and C. Volden. 2002. "Means, Motive, and Opportunity - Politics, Community Needs, and Community Oriented Policing Services Grants." <i>American Politics Research</i> 30 (4, July): 423-455.</p> <p>Kirkpatrick and Kidd, Chapter 6.</p> <p>Be prepared to discuss: What are the basic strengths and weaknesses of a quasi-experimental research design and a case-study design as compared to an experimental design? Are Choi et al. (2002), Stratmann and Baur (2002) and Drury et al. (2005) high in internal validity, external validity, neither, or both?</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Researchers as lurkers and intruders: Observation</p> <p>Read: Johnson and Reynolds, Chapter 8</p> <p>* Mazie, Steven V. and Patricia J. Woods. 2003. "Prayer, Contentious Politics, and the Women of the Wall: The Benefits of Collaboration in Participant Observation at Intense, Multifocal Events." <i>Field Methods</i> 15 (1, February): 27-50.</p>

<p>Oct 15</p>	<p>* Fenno, Richard F., Jr. 1977. "U.S. House Members in Their Constituencies: An Exploration." <i>American Political Science Review</i> 71 (3, September): 883-917.</p> <p>Kirkpatrick and Kidd, Chapter 7.</p> <p>Be prepared to discuss: Are there any advantages or disadvantages to participant observation techniques to gather data? Do these strategies pose any threats to the internal validity of the research design?</p> <p>Followup Assignment Due (Oct 22, 6%): Observe a public meeting. This can be any meeting of a legislature, legislative committee, commission, local board, or any other public agency that you have the right to attend by virtue of your citizenship. Examples of acceptable meetings are the Florida House of Representatives, the U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Boynton Beach City Commission, or the Alachua County Recreation and Open Space Advisory Committee. You may, but are not required to, observe a public meeting in your hometown over spring break. The Sunday <i>Gainesville Sun</i> usually lists upcoming public meetings in the City of Gainesville and Alachua County. Examples of unacceptable meetings are Student Government, its committees, other student or UF groups, or neighborhood property owners association meetings.</p> <p>This website lists public meetings in the City of Gainesville: http://www.cityofgainesville.org/GOVERNMENT/ClerkOfTheCommission/NoticeofMeetings/tabid/372/Default.aspx</p> <p>This website lists public meetings in Alachua County: http://www.co.alachua.fl.us/government/bocc/calendar/meetings.aspx</p> <p>Write a short essay which (a) describes the setting of the meeting, (b) describes your observation role (using a role as defined by one of the readings), and (c) discusses whether the behavior of the meeting's participants varies by some independent variable or variables (eg.: gender, issue type, time). Does your observation of this case tend to confirm a pre-existing theoretical expectation, inform a pre-existing theoretical expectation, and/or help build theory by induction?</p>
<p>Oct 22</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Researchers as Misers: Sampling</p> <p>Read: Johnson and Reynolds, Chapter 7</p> <p>* Reiter, Dan and Curtis Meek. 1999. "Determinants of Military Strategy, 1903-1994: A Quantitative Empirical Test." <i>International Studies Quarterly</i> 43 (2, June): 363-387.</p> <p>* Schneider, Mark, John Scholz, Mark Lubell, Denisa Mindruta, and Matthew Edwardsen. "Building Consensual Institutions: Networks and the National Estuary Program." <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> 47: 143-158.</p> <p>* Gupta, Arjun and Tasha S. Philpot. 2005. "Views from inside the Net: How Websites Affect Young Adults' Political Interest." <i>Journal of Politics</i> 67 (4, November): 1122-1142.</p> <p>Kirkpatrick and Kidd, Chapter 8.</p> <p>Be prepared to discuss: When should researchers <i>avoid</i> sampling? Why do researchers have to sample? What kinds of samples are used in the assigned articles for this week? Why were these samples chosen? Were these samples appropriate? For each sample, what is the theoretical population?</p>
<p>Oct 29</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Researchers as diggers: Content Analysis and Aggregate Data</p> <p>Read: Johnson and Reynolds, Chapter 9</p> <p>* E. J. Flow, Scott. 2002. "Legislators' Personality Traits and Congressional Support for Free Trade." <i>Journal of Conflict Resolution</i> 46 (5, October): 693-711.</p> <p>* Johnson, David F. 2002. "Candidate Strategy and the Decision to Go Negative." <i>Political Research Quarterly</i> 55 (3, December): 681-685.</p> <p>* Leites, Gabriel S. 2003. "Worldviews in Foreign Policy: Realism, Liberalism, and External Conflict." <i>Political Psychology</i> 24: 501-522.</p> <p>Be prepared to discuss: What kinds of research designs are employed in this week's readings? Where did the researchers dig up their data, and are the data and measures appropriate for the questions posed in the articles? Are the research stronger in internal validity or external validity, and why?</p>

Be prepared to discuss: Did Milgram violate APSA standards of ethics in their research? If so, which ones? If not, should our standards be revised to prohibit that kind of research? (Okay, be normative for once!) Are control groups victimized in experiments that evaluate social programs? Does the wealth of online data pose different kinds of ethical dilemmas for social science researchers?