

Research Methods in Political Science

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政治學研究方法(961; Fall 2007)

Time: R 9 ~ 12 am

Classroom: 社3010-2

Difficulty Level: Frist-year graduate students

Office Hours: R 1-3pm & by appointment

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Course Description

政治（科）學作為瞭解人類政治生活的一個學門，面對的研究課題十分複雜多元，且研究的作品往往會被要求在邏輯上提供合理的解釋之外，再提出證據來支持論點。因此，「研究」這個活動並不是抄抄寫寫就能了事。嚴格的說，研究是指以求真的態度，為求得正確的知識和真相而進行的智能性的（intellectual），甚至能夠挑戰或導正既有的迷思（myths）的活動。對於剛踏入政治科學研究領域的同學來說，你必須知道如何在題材選擇與客觀分析之間取得平衡，什麼樣的問題才有「學術性」，以及怎麼樣選擇研究方法才能使你的研究符合你的研究題材。「政治學研究方法」這門課從「為什麼要研究」、「研究什麼」、「怎麼研究」，以及「研究成果如何共享」四個面向出發，帶領同學瞭解不同研究方法的限制，培養正確的研究態度。這門課尤其強調理論的發展、評估與應用，並培養同學對論文品質的鑑賞能力。這門課為本所「政治學量化研究方法」、「社會科學模擬研究方法」、「政治學方法論」、「經驗政治理論」這四門課的基礎。有興趣運用實證資料來檢證理論或撰寫論文的同學應繼續選修「政治學量化研究方法」和「經驗政治理論」；有興趣進一步探究科學哲學相關議題的同學建議修習「社會科學的哲學」或「政治學方法論」；對使用電腦模擬研究方法有興趣的同學，則可選修「社會科學模擬研究方法」。

Assigned Texts

- [C] Creswell, J. W. (2002). *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches*. Sage Publications.
- [STL] Shoemaker, P.J.; Tankard, J. & Lasorsa, D.L. (2004). *How to Build Social Science Theories*. Thousand Oaks, Calif. : Sage.
- Salsburg, D. (2001). *The Lady Tasting Tea: How Statics Revolutionized Science in the Twentieth Century*. W. H. Freeman & Comapny, Inc. 統計，改變了世界. (葉偉文譯). 台北：天下文化.

Supplemental Texts

- Other journal articles assigned in class.

Grading Policy

- In-class Mid-term Exam (40%)

- Term Paper (40%): write up a 10-to-15-page review essay, evaluating self-chosen 2 SSCI articles and 2 TSSCI articles published in the recent 5 years. It must begin with a clear statement of your research interest, research questions. The second section must show your ability to apply the knowledge you learn from this class to evaluate the (1) structure, (2) research topic, (3) theory, and (4) contribution of the papers. Paper due in class on **Jan 10, 2008**.
- Oral Presentation (10%): effectively present your term paper in 5 minutes.
- Class participation, group activities, and attendance (10%)

Course Schedule

1. [Sep. 20] Introduction to the Class

- After Class:
 - Goldsmith, John A.; Komlos, John & Gold, Penny Schine (2001). *The Chicago Guide to Your Academic Career: A Portable Mentor for Scholars from Graduate School through Tenure*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. [Read Chapters 2 & 3.]

Part I: *Why Do Research? Findings Alone and without Theory Cannot Contribute to General Knowledge!*

2. [Sep. 27] Science and Theoretical Concepts

- Before Class:
 - [STL] Chapters 1 & 2

3. & 4. [Oct. 4 & 11] Mechanisms and Theoretical Statements

- Before Class:
 - [STL] Chapters 3, 4, 5 & 6

5. [Oct. 18] Constructing a Theoretical Model

- Before Class:
 - [C] Chapters 6 & 7
 - [STL] Chapter 7

6. [Oct. 25] Theory Building and Evaluation

- Before Class:
 - [STL] Chapters 8 & 9
- In Class:
 - Demo the installation and basic use of JabRef.
 - Homework 1 is out.

Part II: *What to Research? The Subjects for Research*

7. [Nov. 1] Surveying the Topics for Research

- Before Class:
 - Group work: Searching topics of interest
 - Reference: Katznelson, I. & Milner, H. V. (2002). *Political Science: State of the Discipline*. Political Science: State of the Discipline. New York: W.W. Norton.
- In Class: Group presentation about the topics of interest

8. [Nov. 8] Finding Topics from Empirical Puzzles

- Before Class:
 - [C] Chapters 4 & 5
- In Class: Show how to use *Web of Science*.

9. [Nov. 15] Finding Topics from Literature Survey

- Before Class:
 - [C] Chapter 2
- In Class: Show how to *import entries checked out from Web of Science to JabRef*.

10. [Nov. 22] Midterm Exam

- In Class Exam and Homework 1 is due in class.

Part III: *How to Do Research? Research Design and Approaches*

11. [Nov. 29] Research Design and Overview of Quantitative Approaches

- Before Class:
 - [C] Chapters 1 & 8

12. [Dec. 6] Survey Research

- Before Class:
 - [C] Chapter 9
 - Althaus, S.L. (2003). What surveys can tell us about public opinion? In *Collective Preferences In Democratic Politics: Opinion Surveys and the Will of the People*. pp. 277-313. Cambridge University Press.

13. [Dec. 13] Qualitative Research: Focus Group

- Before Class:
 - [C] Chapter 10
 - (in Chinese) Cheng, S. F. (2005). "Focus group: Theory and application". *Electoral Studies (選舉研究)*, 12(1): 211-239.

14. [Dec. 20] Experiments

- Before Class:
 - Druckman, J. N.; Green, D. P.; Kuklinski, J. H. & Lupia, A. (2006). The growth and development of experimental research in political science. *American Political Science Review*, 100 (4), 627-635.
 - Janssen, Macro A. & Ostrom, Elinor (2006). Empirically based, agent-based models. *Ecology and Society*, 11 (2), 37. <http://www.ecologyandsociety.org/vol11/iss2/art37/ES-2006-1861.pdf>

Part IV: How to Present a Research Work?

15. [Dec. 27] Writing Strategies, Literature Review, Citation, and Formatting

- Before Class:
 - [C] Chapter 3
- In class: Talk about paper formatting (APA & APSA)
- Reference:
 - APSA (2001). *Style Manual for Political Science*. American Political Science Association Committee on Publications.
 - Knapp, M.L. & Daly, J.A. (2004). *A Guide to Publishing in Scholarly Communication Journals*. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

16. [Jan. 3] Presenting and Your Work in a Conference and in a Journal

- Before Class: Work on your term paper
- In Class:
 - Polsky, Andrew J. (2007). Seeing your name in print: Unpacking the mysteries of the review process at political science scholarly journals. *PS: Political Science and Politics*, XL (3), 539-543.

17. [Jan. 10] Student Presentation

- Turn in your paper in the class.