

國立中山大學政治學研究所

政治學研究方法

Research Methods in Political Science
Fall 2008 (971)

September 13, 2008

Instructor: Dr. Frank Liu 劉正山 助理教授

Course Time: Tuesday 9-12 am

Classroom: 社 3010-2

Office: 社 4041

Syllabus Online: <http://www2.nsysu.edu.tw/politics/liu> (updated syllabi will be posted here)

Office Hours: T & W 1-3pm or by appointment

E-mail: cslu@faculty.nsysu.edu.tw

Phone Number: 07-5252000 ext. 5555

Course Description

政治(科)學作為瞭解人類政治現象的一個學門，面對的研究課題十分複雜多元。政治學的研究作品不同於報章雜誌的意見論述，不但要有清晰的邏輯，且往往必有合理的佐證。清晰的邏輯指的是研究目的、研究問題與研究發現和推論之間高度的一致性，而合理的證據則是指由研究者所提供的第一手或第二手的資料分析。因此，「研究」這個活動並不是抄抄寫寫或是堆砌他人的研究發現就能了事。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)、甚至能夠挑戰或是導正既有迷思 (myth) 的活動。對於剛踏入政治科學研究領域的同學來說，你必須知道研究這個活動的嚴肅性，以及在做研究的過程中如何找到樂趣。更重要的課題，是如何正確選擇研究題材、如何發問、以及如何選擇適當的研究方法。因此，本課程的主軸是「研究設計」，其次才是研究方法的選擇與論文寫作。

課程進行方式將以課前閱讀與課堂講授為主、以課堂討論及回家作業為輔。同學在每次下課之後必須先看清楚下周的主題，並利用下次上課之前的時間完成指定的閱讀和作業。要求同學大量閱讀英文最重要的兩個目的，一是為了訓練同學快速吸收學術社群最新的研究成果和議題的能力，二是為了訓練同學建立閱讀最新的研究題材的習慣 (或興趣)。課後作業的目的則是訓練同學自行培養獨立研究的能力，為寫出高水準的碩士論文作準備。

這份課程大綱只有此處是中文。這樣做的用意是強迫你意識到你必須開始訓練你的眼睛和大腦去習慣英文教科書和期刊論文。自己覺得英文閱讀和理解能力不夠好的同學，面對所有研究所課程的英文要求時，必須更努力安排自己的時間，訓練出自己的閱讀與學習紀律。拿中文譯本參考的確是省時間的方法，但是這樣做對於提昇自己英文閱讀能力完全沒有幫助。如果你不能努力提昇自己的能力，那麼你的碩士論文將難以在競爭日益激烈的學術武林之中立足。升上碩二之前，不妨用這個標準來檢視自己是否合格：在正常修課狀態下三天之內完整消化一篇國際期刊論文，並作出書目和摘要。

「政治學研究方法」這門課分為「如何選擇題材」、「如何發問」、「如何選擇研究方法」，以及「如何呈現研究成果」四個階段。這門課為本所「政治學量化資料分析」、「社會科學模擬研究方法」、「政治學方法論」、「經驗政治理論」等四門課的基礎，由碩士生一年級修學為佳。打算運用經驗資料來作研究的同學應繼續選修「政治學量化資料分析」；有興趣進一步開拓經驗政治研究議題和視野的同學，可以選修「經驗政治理論」、「民意與選舉行為研究」、「政治傳播」等課程；有興趣進一步探究知識論和方法論的同學，可修習「社會科學的哲學」或「政治學方法論」；有興趣探索以電腦模擬途徑來進行研究的同學，則可選修「社會科學模擬研究方法」。

這門課和其他所有研究所的課程一樣，所有閱讀與課程準備工作都必須由學生獨立完成。課堂之外的分工合作是不被允許的。同學課後針對不懂的地方可以相互討論，或利用老師的課業研討時間直接向老師詢問。若是被發現在課程允許的範圍之外，自行分配閱讀來減輕課業負擔，那麼涉入的同學將得不到及格的分數。上課時需要口頭報告的時候，同學將抽籤上台報告，報告的順序不會事先安排。

Assigned Texts

- [STL] Shoemaker, P.J.; Tankard, J. & Lasorsa, D.L. (2004). How to Build Social Science Theories. Thousand Oaks, Calif. : Sage.

- Other assigned research papers and book chapters not to be listed here. These materials will be put in a course folder in the institute office one week before the next class. Pick them up in the institute office and make your own photocopies.
- Note: Unless you are sure about the quality of translation, do not read the translated version and mislead yourself.

Supplemental Texts

(for your reference only; you don't need to buy them)

- This book is a good supplement to [STL], but I decided not to ask students to buy it; instead, I will pick up some chapters to read:
 - [C] Creswell, J. W. (2002). *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches*. Sage Publications. (I will put a copy of some important chapters to be used in this class in the department office. Make your own photocopies.)
- These books may give you a more sense about the role of statistics in our daily life:
 - Salsburg, D. (2001). *The Lady Tasting Tea: How Statistics Revolutionized Science in the Twentieth Century*. W. H. Freeman & Company, Inc. 統計，改變了世界（葉偉文譯）。台北：天下文化。
 - 鄭惟厚（2007）。你不能不懂的統計常識。台北：天下文化。
 - Huff, Darrell. (1954) *How to Lie with Statistics* 鄭惟厚譯（2005）。別讓統計數字騙了你。台北：天下文化。
- This book may serve you as a guide to become a scholar, at least a successful graduate student:
 - 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.

Grading Policy

- In-class participation (30%) : Everyone will get either 1 or 0 in the end of each class. Students who read the assigned readings and participate in discussion will get 1, otherwise 0. The scores will be added up and scaled in the end of the semester. Extra-points you earn in the class will be added into this score.
- Term Paper (60%): Your semester-long work is a research proposal. Less than 20 pages, your model(s), hypotheses, or arguments, should be grounded in literature as much as you can. Your grade, varying from 0 to 95, will not be based on the number of pages or simulation, but on *how well it is grounded in theory and how ready it can be carried on for publication, at least prepared for a national or international conference*. Your paper should include title (in both English and Chinese), abstract (in both English and Chinese), introduction, literature review, research design, and bibliography. The title of the paper must be specific; the abstract must be less than 250 words; introduction must state the purpose of the study and research questions; literature review must cover theoretical background and other people's works related to your research questions; research design must be specific about your plan to find answers to your research questions; and, bibliography must be a well-formatted list of books or articles (using APA, Chicago, or APSA style) mentioned in the section of literature review.
- Oral Presentation (10%): You need to effectively present your proposal (including expected findings) in 10 minutes, like in a conference. Presenters are required to dress up (like attending a formal conference) and present your work using transparent sheets, a power point file (no more than 8 pages, including the title page) or printed handouts to the class. Note, if this is your first time to present formally, you should know that time is much shorter than you can expect. I suggest you rehearse before presentation.

Course Schedule

1. [Sep. 16] Introduction

- After Class:
 - study the syllabus
 - pick up a topic of interest that you think you like to study;
 - Go through the website of American Political Science Association: <http://www.apsanet.org>. Pay close attention to the sections and subfields of the discipline.

Part I: *What to Research? Finding Subjects that are Proper for Research*

2. [Sep. 23] Surveying the Topics for Research

- In Class:
 - take quizzes about the syllabus (you will earn extra points to the final grade);
 - overview the subfields of the discipline
 - evaluate topics chosen by students;
- After Class:
 - pick up a master thesis (in Chinese) that interests you most, make a photo copy of the abstract page (including the title), and make photo copies of it for everyone in the class;
- Supplemental Readings:
 - Katznelson, I. & Milner, H. V. (2002). Political Science: State of the Discipline. Political Science: State of the Discipline. New York: W.W. Norton.

3. [Sep. 30] Finding Topics from Empirical Puzzles

- Before Class:
 - [C] Chapters 4 & 5
- In Class:
 - evaluate and discuss about the theses of choice;

4. [Oct. 7] Finding Topics from the Literature

- Before Class:
 - [C] Chapter 2
 - Ryfe, D. M. (2005). Does deliberative democracy work? Annual Review of Political Science, 8 , 49-71.
- In Class:
 - discuss about Web of Science (SSCI) and the purposes of reading journal articles;
 - overview the major political science journals;
 - group or team students sharing similar interests;
- After Class:
 - modify or change your research topic and start writing your proposal;
 - install JabRef in your computer
- Supplemental Readings:

Part II: How to Ask Proper Research Questions?

5. [Oct. 14] Science and Theoretical Concepts

- Before Class:
 - [STL] Chapters 1 & 2
- In Class:
 - discuss about why, how, what, if, what if, and so what questions;
 - report updated research questions of interest;
 - demonstrate basic features of JabRef
- After Class:
 - pick up a Chinese journal article that related to your proposal topic, make a copy of the its introduction section, study it, and bring it to the class.
- Supplemental Readings:
 - Lane, R. (1996). Positivism, scientific realism and political science: Recent developments in the philosophy of science. *Journal of Theoretical Politics*, 8 (3), 361-382.

6. [Oct. 21 & 28] Mechanisms and Theoretical Statements

- Before Class:
 - [STL] Chapters 3, 4, 5, & 6
- In Class:
 - evaluate and discuss about the introduction section of the (Chinese) thesis of chosen;
- After Class:
 - pick up a SSCI article (not used in other classes) that is most related to your topic (published within five years), study the first two sections and its conclusion section, and bring it to the class.

7. [Nov. 4] Constructuring a Theoretical Model

- Before Class:
 - [STL] Chapters 7 & 8
- In Class:
 - discuss about the theories and models of the chosen journal article;

8. [Nov. 11] Theory Building and Story Telling

- Before Class:
 - [STL] Chapter 9
 - Choose one:
 - * Schelling, T. C. (1978). *Micromotives and Macrobehavior*. New York: Norton. (selected chapters)
 - * Fenno, R. F. (1978). *Home Style: House Members in Their Districts*. Little Brown. (selected chapters)
- Note: there will be no class on Nov. 18 (for the mid-term exam week); work on the theory part of your proposal (including finding relevent articles and taking notes of them).

Part III: *How to Do Research? Conducting a Research Design and Finding a Proper Method*

9. [Nov. 25] Research Design and Overview of Quantitative Approaches

- Before Class:
 - [C] Chapters 1 & 8
 - Achen, C. H. (2002). Toward a new political methodology: Microfoundations and ART. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 5, 423-450.
- In Class:
 - present the theories and hypotheses relevant to your research;
 - demonstrate ways to import entries from Web of Science to JabRef. Also talk about JabRef.
- After Class:
 - read two assigned articles of electoral studies (in Chinese), pay special attention to its theoretical base and models.

10. [Dec. 2 & 9] Survey and Quantitative Approaches

- Before Class:
 - [C] Chapter 9 ;
 - Supplemental journal articles
- In Class:
 - discuss about the role of statistics in political science;
 - talk about statistical software packages adopted by political scientists;
 - evaluate the papers and the ways to interpret statistical results

11. [Dec. 16 & 23] Qualitative Approaches

- Before Class:
 - [C] Chapter 10
 - Johnson, J. B. & Reynolds, H. (2005). *Political Science Research Methods*. Washington D.C.: CQ Press. [Chapters 7 & 8.]
 - (in Chinese) Cheng, S. F. (2004). “Focus group: Theory and application”. *Electoral Studies (選舉研究)*, 12(1): 211-239.
- After Class:
 - study the research design of the thesis you chose;

12. [Dec. 30] Experiments

- Before Class:
 - Johnson, J. B. & Reynolds, H. (2005). *Political Science Research Methods*. Washington D.C.: CQ Press. Chapter 3.
 - Shadish, W. R.; Cook, T. D. & Campbell, D. T. (2007). *Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs for Generalized Causal Inference*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin. (part of the book)
- In Class:
 - present the research design of the paper you chose;

- Supplemental Readings:

- Lupia, A. (2002). New ideas in experimental political science. *Political Analysis*, 10 (4) , 319-324.
- McDermott, R. (2002). Experimental methodology in political science. *Political Analysis*, 10 (4) , 325-342.
- 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>

- After Class:

- study the literature review section of the papers (one in Chinese and one in English) you chose;
- Note: one day off on January 1, 2009; prepare two pages of research design and make photo copies to the class

Part IV: How to Present Your Research?

13. [Jan. 6, 2009] Writing Strategies, Literature Review, Citation, and Formatting

- Before Class:

- [C] Chapter 3
- 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.

- In class:

- discuss how to compose a literature review;
- discuss about the format styles (APA & APSA);
- discuss how a panel in a conference functions;
- compose panels for student presentation– assigning chairs and discussants; it will be like a simulated conference.

- Supplemental Readings:

- 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.
- Klass, G. M. (2008). *Just Plain Data Analysis: Finding, Presenting, and Interpreting Social Science Data*. New York, NY: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc. (read Chapters 2 and 3).

- After Class:

- compose a bibliography page, including all books and/or articles you chose for your proposal;
- send the bib file (file name format: FirstnameLastname_date.bib; for example, FrankLiu_081005.bib) to the instructor before the class;
- compose an english abstract of your proposal, less than 250 words;

14. [Jan. 6 & 13] Student Oral Presentation

- Turn in your research proposal before January 16. Late submission will not be accepted.