

University of Waterloo
PSCI600 Theories and Methods of Political Analysis
Fall 2012
1:30-4:20 pm Monday RCH106

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Office: HH349

Office Hours: Monday 11:30-1:00 Thursday 12:30-2:00

Format

Seminar

Pre-Requisites

None

Course Description

This is an introduction to the theoretical scopes and methods of political science at the graduate level. As such, there are two primary purposes in this course, one substantive and one methodological. In the former case, we will discuss some of the key theoretical perspectives, concepts, and frameworks widely utilized today in major fields within political science, such as the state, society, culture, rational choice, institutions, identity/ideology/public opinion. In the latter case, we will look at some of the key methodological issues related to the studies of political science, such as establishing causality, data gathering, measurement problems, research design, hypothesis testing, and some well-known questions associated with selecting qualitative versus quantitative strategies.

Academic Integrity:

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline,

<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm>

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her

university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals,

<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm>

Academic Integrity website (Arts):

http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

Academic Integrity Office (UW): <http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/>

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

Note for students with disabilities: The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.

Course Requirements

Part One: Non-Written (50%)

1. Participation in Discussion (35%)

This is a seminar, and therefore active participation in class discussion is **required**. For each session, you need to **take the initiative** in actively contributing to the discussions in order to receive the 35% grades for participation

2. Presentation in Class (15%)

Once during the semester you will present some of the weekly readings to the class that serves as a resource for class discussion. I will assign the readings for you for that particular week. The requirement of the presentation is twofold. First, you should provide information that helps further clarify the readings. Second, you should offer some of your own comments and evaluations on the readings to the class.

Part Two: Written (50%)

Term Paper: Critically Evaluating the Book *Making Democracy Work*

At the end of term, you should submit a term paper of 8 pages (single page), critically evaluating the book *Making Democracy Work* by Robert Putnam. In the term paper, you should discuss and evaluate in detail the various methodological strategies adopted by the author. Your discussion must draw extensively on the methodological arguments we

learnt throughout the semester. In other words, to make your term paper a success, it is absolutely essential that you follow the seminar discussion closely and participate actively every week. I will specify more details on requirements for this term paper after we finish more than half of the course materials.

Texts

You should purchase the following textbook (available from the university's bookstore).

(1). *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy*. Putnam, Robert. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, c1993.

All other readings will be made available online.

Course Organization

Week 1 September 10

Introduction

Part One-----Research Methods

Week 2 September 17

Causality (1)

Methodological Arguments

Fearon, James. 1991. "Counterfactuals and Hypothesis Testing in Political Science." *World Politics* 43: 169-195.

Hedstrom, Peter and Richard Swedberg. 1996. "Social Mechanisms." *Acta Sociologica* 39: 281-308.

Kurzman, Charles. 2004. "Can Understanding Undermine Explanation? The Confused Experience of Revolutions." *The Philosophy of Social Sciences* 34: 328-351.

Research Examples

Brownlee, Jason. 2007. "Hereditary Succession in Modern Autocracies." *World Politics* 59: 595-628.

Swank, Duane. 1998. "Funding the Welfare State: Globalization and the Taxation of Business in Advanced Market Economies." *Political Studies* 46: 671-692.

Week 3 September 24 **Causality (2)**

Methodological Arguments

Bates, Robert, et al. 1998. "The Politics of Interpretation: Rationality, Culture, and Transition." *Politics and Society* 26: 603-42.

Fenno, Richard. 1986. "Observation, Context, and Sequence in the Study of Politics." *American Political Science Review* 80: 3-15.

Collier, David, James Mahoney, and Jason Seawright. 2004. "Claiming Too Much: Warnings about Selection Bias" in *Rethinking Social Inquiry*. Rowman and Littlefield.

Research Examples

Rudolph, Lloyd and Susanne Rudolph. 2003. "Engaging Subjective Knowledge: How Amar Singh's Diary Narratives of and by the Self Explain Identity Formation," *Perspectives on Politics* 1: 681-694.

Schwartz, Joel. 1984. "Participation and Multisubjective Understanding: an Interpretivist Approach to the Study of Political Participation." *Journal of Politics* 46: 1117-1141.

Walsh, Katherine. 2012. "Putting Inequality in Its Place: Rural Consciousness and the Power of Perspective." *American Political Science Review* 106: 517-532.

Hale, Henry. 2005. "Regime Cycles: Democracy, Autocracy, and Revolution in Post-Soviet Russia." *World Politics* 58: 133-165.

Week 4 October 1 **Data and Measurement (1)**

Methodological Arguments

Satori, Giovanni. 1970. "Concept Misformation in Comparative Politics." *American Political Science Review* 64: 1033-1053.

Adcock, Robert and Collier, David. 2001. "Measurement Validity: A Shared Standard for Qualitative and Quantitative Research." *American Political Science Review* 95: 529-546.

Schaeffer, Nora Cate and Presser, Stanley. 2003. "The Science of Asking Questions." *Annual Review of Sociology* 29: 65-88.

Research Examples

Abramson, Paul and Finifter Ada. 1981. "On the Meaning of Political Trust: New Evidence from Items Introduced in 1978." *American Journal of Political Science* 25: 297-307.

Elkins, Zachary. 2000. "Gradations of Democracy? Empirical Tests of Alternative Conceptualizations." *American Journal of Political Science* 44:293-300.

Week 5 October 15

Data and Measurement (2)

Methodological Arguments

Jacoby, William G. 1999. "Levels of Measurement and Political Research: An Optimistic View." *American Journal of Political Science* 43: 271-301.

Liebertson, Stanley. 1985. "Variation, Levels of Analysis, and the Research Question" in *Making It Count: The Improvement of Social Research and Theory*. University of California Press.

Herrera, Yoshiko and Devesh Kapur. 2007. "Improving Data Quality: Actors, Incentives and Capabilities." *Political Analysis* 15: 365-86.

Research Examples

Krosnick, Jon and Matthew Berent. 1993. "Comparisons of Party Identification and Policy Preferences: The Impact of Survey Question Format." *American Journal of Political Science* 37: 941-964.

Conover, Pamela, Ivor Crewe and Donald Searing. 1991. "The Nature of Citizenship in the United States and Great Britain: Empirical Comments on Theoretical Themes." *Journal of Politics* 53: 800-832.

Week 6 Oct 22

Testing Theory with Data (1)

Methodological Arguments

McKeown, Timothy. 1999. "Case Studies and the Statistical Worldview." *International Organization* 53, 161-190

Mahoney, James and Goertz, Gary. 2006. "A Tale of Two Cultures: Contrasting Qualitative and Quantitative Research." *Political Analysis* 14: 227-249.

Mahoney, James. 1999. "Nominal, Ordinal and Narrative Appraisal in Macrocausal Analysis." *American Journal of Sociology* 104: 1154-1196.

Research Examples

Immergut, Ellen. 1992. "The Rules of the Game: The Logic of Health Policy Making in France, Switzerland and Sweden" in *Structuring Politics: Historical Institutionalism in Comparative Analysis*. Cambridge University Press.

Gibson, Edward. 2005. "Boundary Control: Subnational Authoritarianism in Democratic Countries." *World Politics* 58: 101-32.

Week 7 October 29

Testing Theory with Data (2)

Methodological Arguments

Dion, Douglas. 1998. "Evidence and Inference in the Comparative Case Study." *Comparative Politics* 30: 127-146.

Capoccia, Giovanni and Daniel Keleman. 2007. "The Study of Critical Junctures: Theory, Narrative and Counterfactuals in Historical Institutionalism." *World Politics* 59: 341-69.

Bennett, Andrew and Colin Elman. 2006. "Complex Causal Relations and Case Study Methods: The Example of Path Dependence." *Political Analysis* 14: 250-67.

Research Examples

Putnam, Robert. 1993. *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press-----**skim** Chapter 2, **and read all other chapters in detail**.

Rueda, David. 2005. "Insider-Outsider Politics in Industrialized Democracies: The Challenge to Social Democratic Parties." *American Political Science Review* 99: 61-74.

Baumgartner, Frank et al. 2009. "Punctuated Equilibrium in Comparative Perspective". *American Journal of Political Science* 53: 603-20.

Part Two—Key Examples of Causal Mechanisms

Week 8 November 5 **Parties and Voting**

Rabinowitz, George and Stuart MacDonald. 1987. “A Directional Theory of Issue Voting.” *American Political Science Review* 83: 93-121.

Aldrich, John. 1995. *Why Parties?* University of Chicago Press. Chapters 1-2.

Downs, Anthony. 1957. *An Economic Theory of Democracy*. New York: Harper and Brothers. Chapter 2.

Week 9 November 12 **Democratization**

Lipset, Martin. 1959. “Some Social Requisites of Democracy: Economic Development and Political Legitimacy.” *American Political Science Review* 53: 69-105.

Przeworski, Adam and Limongi, Fernando. 1997. “Modernization: Theories and Facts.” *World Politics* 37: 155-183.

Rueschemeyer, Stephens, and Stephens. *Capitalist Development and Democracy*. University of Chicago Press. 1992. Chapters 3 and 4.

Week 10 November 19 **Political Economy**

Katzenstein, Peter. 1985. *Small States in World Markets: Industrial Policy in Europe*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. Chapters 1 and 3.

Hall, Peter and David Soskice. 2010. “An Introduction to Varieties of Capitalism” (pp. 1-54, stop by subsection “1.8: Dynamics of Adjustment”), in Peter Hall and David Soskice, eds. *Varieties of Capitalism: The Institutional Foundation of Comparative Advantage*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Esping-Andersen, Gosta. 1999. *The Social Foundations of Postindustrial Economies*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Chapter 4

Torben Iversen and Ann Wren. 1998. “Equality, Employment and Budgetary Restraint: the Trilemma of the Service Economy.” *World Politics* 50: 507–46.

Weinstein, Jeremy. 2007. *Inside Rebellion: the Politics of Insurgent Violence*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Introduction.

Kalyvas, Stathis. 2006. *The Logic of Violence in Civil Wars*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 6 and 7.

Walter, Barbara. 2008. *Reputation and Civil War: Why Separatist Conflicts Are So Violent*. Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1 and 2.