研究方法論

SEMINAR IN RESEARCH METHODS
Graduate Institute of Political Economy
National Cheng Kung University

Instructor: 周志杰  Office: 6F, N.Tower, CSS, NCKU
Semester: Fall 2012  Office Hours: Tue./Wed. 14:30-16:30
Class Time: Mon. 13:10-16:00  Office Phone: 2757575 ext.50231
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Course Description and Objectives

This seminar is designed to improve graduate-level skills in creating and criticizing methodologically sophisticated research work. You are supposed to gain better competence to 1) refresh your knowledge towards the evolution of social scientific methodology and main approaches and theories in the discipline, 2) enhance your skills to interpret qualitative evidence and empirical data of political economical life, 4) critically evaluate theoretical framework, research techniques, and main research themes, and 5) proceed research design by adopting theories and techniques in social sciences, The research examples used to illustrate methodological issues will be mainly drawn from political science. However, the methodological content of the seminar is applicable to the study of economics, sociology, and area studies.

Required Textbook

Assigned Journal Articles.
All readings can be found on 成大電子期刊資料庫 (NCKU Library E-Journal) - JSTOR - Arts & Sciences I Collection

Suggested Textbooks (for refreshing knowledge you’ve got)

1. 劉鶴群等譯 (Earl Babbie 著)。「社會科學研究方法」。台北：雙葉書廊，2010。
2. 張家麟 譯 (Kenneth Hoover; Todd Donovan 著)。「社會科學方法論的思維」(The Elements of Social Scientific Thinking)。台北：韋伯文化，2006 (NY: Martin’s, 1995)。
3. 石之瑜。「社會科學方法新論」。台北：五南書局，2003。
5. 徐子婷 譯 (Colin Hay 著)。「政治學分析的途徑」(Political Analysis: a Critical
Introduction.

6. 陳義彥等譯 (David Marsh 等著)。「政治學方法論與途徑」(Theory and Methods in Political Science)。台北：韋伯文化，2008。

7. 周志杰 譯 (Todd Landman 著)。「最新比較政治的議題與途徑」(Issues and Methods in Comparative Politics)。台北：韋伯文化國際出版有限公司，2007。

8. 冷則剛、任文姍 譯 (Jarol B. Manheim and Richard C. Rich 著)。「政治學方法論」。台北：五南圖書出版公司，1998。

9. 易君博。「政治理論與研究方法」。台北：三民書局，1990。


Useful Websites

1. The Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/


4. Political Methodology, American Political Science Association http://polmeth.wustl.edu/


6. Comparative and Research Method, American Political Science Association http://www.nd.edu/~apsacp/

Course Requirements and Grading Policy

1. **Weights**: Two Leading Discussions 20% (10% for each), Four Written Critiques 20%, A Midterm Exam 20%, One Research Design Paper 20%, Attendance/Participation/Contribution 20%.
2. Two Leading Discussions of the required readings (Seminar Leader and Written Critique)

1) LEADING DISCUSSION: You will be assigned to lead two seminars in this course. Principally, some students will be selected as leaders in one session. Each leader focuses on one reading required for the given week, and leads the rest of participants to summarize and comment the reading and answer relevant questions raised by participants and I.

2) LEADER’S CRITIQUE: Each leader will be required to write one 3000 word critique of that assigned reading (Week 4-7, 10-14), and submit it at the beginning of the seminar of that given week.

3. Four Written Critiques: The other participants are also required to do best to write four 2000-word critiques selected out of the required readings for each session (Week 4-7, 10-14), and show your active participation and contribution in the readings and relevant question/theme.

4. One Term Paper (a Research Design Paper)

You are expected to submit a Research Design as your term paper by the due day (2013/01/21). Research designs should address all of the following tasks elements: (1) specification of your research question and research objectives, in relation to the current stage of development and research needs of the relevant research program, related literatures, and alternative explanations; (2) specification of the hypotheses/propositions, and independent and dependent variables (or plus intervening variables); (3) selection of a theoretical approach/model/method that are appropriate in light of the first two tasks, and justification of why this framework were selected and how it can build causality and proceed inference from your research question; and (4) consideration of how variance in the variables can best be described for testing and/or refining existing theories. There is no minimum length limit, though most designs will probably be around 6,000 words and should be shorter than 9,000 words.

5. Participation in class discussions is required. It is a graduate-level seminar!!
Discussions will be conducted under the following rules:

- BE PREPARED. Intelligent participation requires that you have read and thought about the assignment.
- BACK UP STATEMENTS WITH EVIDENCE. Evidence can consist of facts or statistics from the literature and/or specific observations or experiences.
CONTRIBUTE. Your perspective is unique. It is your responsibility to give
the class the benefit of your point of view, even if you believe that others may
disagree. Practice demonstrates the courage of your convictions. We may be
able to discover some new ideas/puzzles in the atmosphere of the class that is
full of brain-storming conversations.

Scholastic Dishonesty
Scholastic dishonesty is any act that violates the rights of another student with respect
to academic work or that involves misrepresentation of a student's own work.
Scholastic dishonesty includes (but is not limited to) cheating on assignments or
examinations, plagiarizing (misrepresenting as one’s own anything done by another),
submitting the same or substantially similar papers (or creative work) for more than
one course without consent of all instructors concerned, depriving another of
necessary course materials, and sabotaging another’s work.

Discussion Topics and Assigned Readings
Week 1 9/17: Overview Syllabus & Introduction of Coming Attractions
Week 2 9/24: Readings Distribution & How to Write Your Thesis
Proposal/Research Design

Part I – Basic Lecturing
Week 3 10/1: Refresh the Methodology for Social Sciences
Recommended:
張家麟 譯 (Kenneth Hoover; Todd Donovan 著)。「社會科學方法論的思維」(The
Elements of Social Scientific Thinking)。台北：韋伯文化，2006 (NY: Martin’s,
1995)。
呂翠松 譯 (Mark J. Smith 著)。「社會科學概說：方法論的探索」(Social Science in
Question)。台北：韋伯文化，2004 (London: Sage, 1998)。

Part II – Review Methodology: Bridge the Qualitative & Quantitative
Approach
Week 4 10/8: Review the Fundamentals of Methodology
Facts, impressions, and concepts in society.
Required:
1. Gabriel A. Almond; Stephen J. Genco, “Clouds, Clocks, and the Study of Politics”
*2. Atul Kohli, Adam Przeworski, and Theda Skocpol’s sections in “The Role of
(October 1995), pp. 1–2, 16-21, 37–49.


Recommened:


Week 5 10/15: Divergent Ideas of Social Science

Alternative ways for social science inquiry.

Required:


Recommended:


**Week 6 10/22:**

1. **Theories and Hypotheses: Descriptive Inference and Causal Inference**

   *What’s all this about falsification and the null hypothesis?*

   Required:


   Recommended:


2. **Concept Building, Operationalization, and Measurement**

   *Trying to get a handle on stylized facts, factoids, and indicators.*

   Required:


I n s t r u c t o r :  P r o f .  C h o u


Recommended:


**Week 7 10/29**

1. **Causality, Inference, and Interpretation**

   Every time President Ma comes here it rains. Ma causes rain!

   **Required:**


   **Recommended:**


2. **Comparison as Method and Comparative Methods**

   They’re all Taiwanese, what’s the problem?

   **Required:**


Recommended:


**Week 8 11/5: MIDTERM EXAM**

**Week 9 11/12 Invited Speech**

**Week 10 11/19:**

1. **Case Studies and Case Selection**

   *How could you compare an Apple and an Orange?*

Required:


Recommended:


2. **Quasi-Experimental and Survey Designs**

   *What do people think in Tainan City? Well I asked this cab driver and….*

Required:


**Recommended:**


**Part III – Research Topics: Potential Themes for Your Thesis**

1. **Inter-State Level**

**Week 11 11/26: State as an Object to Study**

**Required:**


**Recommended:**

Joel S. Migdal, “Studying the State,” in *Comparative Politics: Rationality, Culture*


Week 12 12/3: International Studies and International Political Economy

Required:


Recommended:


2. National & Sub-national Level

Week 13 12/10: Political Economy of Development

Required:

Recommended:

Week 14 12/17 Theme 5: Public Policy and Analysis

Required:

Recommended:

Part IV – Samples of Thesis & Proposals: Criticism and Lesson

Week 15 12/24: Thesis Proposal Criticism & Analysis
Required:
Selected Thesis Proposals (will pass out before two weeks of this session)

Week 16 12/31: Adjusted Holiday

Week 17 1/7: Thesis Criticism & Analysis
Required:
Selected Thesis (will pass out before two weeks of this session)

Week 18 1/14: Term Paper Writing and Completion (Due in 1/20)