

POL 415: Political Science Junior Seminar
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Class	Office
M 6:10-7:30 Vollum 110 https://moodle.reed.edu/course/view.php?id=2662	Tu 2:00-5:00 or by appointment Vollum 241 http://alexmontgomery.com

Course Description and Goals

Half-credit course for one semester. This course is intended for second semester juniors in political science. The course prepares students to complete the initial steps required for a year-long project: asking a research question, reviewing prior literature on the subject, and proposing a research design. Conference.

The schedule of the course mirrors closely the political science junior qualifying examination. The materials covered in this course are independent of the qual, and none of your qual work will be used to satisfy the requirements for this course. However, the tools and techniques that you will learn in this course should help you complete the qual and prepare you for your senior thesis.

The course focuses on the tools and techniques of political science research. We will review many of the major research approaches in political science, particularly those reflecting the main areas of scholarship covered by faculty at Reed College. Much of the work in the class will involve reading, analyzing, and critiquing existing political science research with an eye to identifying the questions asked, methodology chosen, and how answers were reached.

Finally, there is an important and enjoyable team-building exercise to this class: comparative cooking! Each week, the department will support a student or set of students who will cook for the class. Please try to keep the expenditures approximately \$35 per week. Dining and discussion are a great way to meet your fellow students.

Requirements

Class Participation

Students are required to actively participate in the class; they will have the opportunity to do so both during and outside of classroom hours. Many of the exercises will be conducted in groups inside and outside of class; some of these will involve peer review.

Readings

Readings for the course are E-Readings, which can be downloaded from the Moodle links using [Endnote](#) or [Zotero](#), both of which are supported by the library. Students are expected to bring a copy of the readings to class every day for reference. Laptops may be used in class, but will be banned if abused. Readings marked "Further" on the syllabus are other relevant articles or books; they are not required for class. Students who have a particular interest in the topics in question are encouraged to read these pieces and to incorporate them into their assignments.

If you are unfamiliar with JStor or other political science article databases, please let me know the first day of class; similarly, if you are not already using Zotero or Endnote, you should start now. There is a library session for qualifiers on Tuesday of Week 4 that you will all be required to attend that can assist you with these as well.

Two developments in recent years have created a rich set of resources for the budding researcher in political science. First, a number of publishers have created handbooks for political science (as well as other disciplines). We draw heavily on the Oxford University Press handbook series below. These have the additional advantage of being available as electronic resources at Reed.

Useful Oxford University Press Handbooks

- Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady and David Collier, editors (2008) *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*. 1st edition. Oxford University Press, ISBN 9780199286546
- John S. Dryzek, Bonnie Honig and Anne Phillips, editors (2008) *The Oxford Handbook of Political Theory*. 1st edition. Oxford University Press, ISBN 9780199548439
- Robert E. Goodin, editor (2009) *The Oxford Handbook of Political Science*. Oxford University Press, ISBN 9780191619793

Second, as an outgrowth of methodological debates in the discipline, some excellent guides to qualitative research have appeared. These are particularly valuable to Reed students since some variant of case study research is used in most theses.

Qualitative Research Guides

- Gary King, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba (1994) *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton University Press, ISBN 0691034710
- Stephen Van Evera (1997) *Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press <<http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/37043858>>, ISBN 080148457X
- Barbara Geddes (2003) *Paradigms and Sandcastles: Theory Building and Research Design in Comparative Politics*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press <<http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/51607439>>, ISBN 0472068350
- Henry E. Brady and David Collier, editors (2004) *Rethinking Social Inquiry: Diverse Tools, Shared Standards*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, ISBN 0742511251
- Alexander L. George and Andrew Bennett (2005) *Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, ISBN 0262572222
- Gary Goertz (2006) *Social Science Concepts: A User's Guide*. Princeton: Princeton University Press <<http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/58831523>>, ISBN 0691124108
- Paul Kellstedt and Guy Whitten (2013) *The Fundamentals of Political Science Research*. Cambridge University Press, ISBN 9781107621664

Every student should also have a copy of the Political Science Department Junior Qual Handbook <http://academic.reed.edu/poli_sci/resources/juniorqualhandbook.htm> and Thesis Handbook <http://academic.reed.edu/poli_sci/resources/seniorthesishandbook.htm>. Pay particular attention to the more extended list of research resources that are made available in those documents.

Institutional Resources

The Interuniversity Consortium on Political and Social Research (ICPSR) <<http://icpsr.umich.edu>> is the worlds largest archive of social science data. There are datasets and resources applicable to almost every area of research. Even if you are not quantitatively inclined, there may be something there that could provide a numerical lens on your research question. The ICPSR runs a Summer Quantitative Research Institute in Ann Arbor, MI that may be of interest to select students.

The Consortium on Qualitative Research Methods (CQRM) <<http://www.maxwell.syr.edu/moynihan/programs/cqrm/>> at Syracuse University is something of a counterweight to the ICPSR. There are a very rich set of resources at their website, particularly a syllabi database. The also run a summer research institute at Syracuse.

Course Website

Frequent use of the course website will be necessary for success in the class. Supplemental and core readings will be made available there; and assignments will be turned in electronically using the site.

Assignments

Assignments will be due weekly at noon. Weeks in which a substantial part of the qual is due (i.e., weeks 3, 7, 10, 12) will not have additional assignments, but your submissions may be used as part of an exercise those days. Most of the assignments will be short, as they are designed to test mastery of concepts and tools rather than your ability to generate mass quantities of text.

Citation and Plagiarism

A major goal of this course is to encourage good reading, research, and citation habits. Good research requires good documentation of sources and the ability to put one's own analysis and thoughts into a paper rather than relying on others. When in doubt as to whether you should cite something, always do it. Citations are required for ideas as well as facts, and are imperative even if you are not directly quoting authors. Make sure that you provide as specific a citation as possible; if an author discusses an idea in one section or one page, cite the specific section or page instead of the full article or book. I usually recommend that students use in-text author-date citation with full Chicago Manual of Style citations; see their Citation Quick Guide: <http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html>.

However, style is less important than the cites being present. If you use an idea or a fact without attribution, you are plagiarizing someone else's work. Plagiarism and cheating are violations of academic integrity and thus violations of Reed's Honor Principle. As specified by Reed's academic conduct policy, such violations will result in disciplinary actions, including suspension or permanent dismissal from the College. Plagiarism is submitting a piece of work which in part or in whole is not entirely the student's own work without attributing those same portions to their correct source. For examples of plagiarism and how to avoid it, see <<http://www.csub.edu/ssric-trd/howto/plagiarism.htm>>. If nothing else, you should avoid "sinister buttocks" syndrome. For more information on Reed's policies see: <http://www.reed.edu/academic/gbook/comm_pol/acad_conduct.html>.

Plagiarism often comes as the result of a student being up against a deadline without being able to meet it. If you are having trouble meeting a deadline for whatever reason, please contact me. It is always better to ask for more time than to plagiarize. When you ask for an extension, you should a) explain what events are causing you to miss the deadline and b) request an amount of time proportional to the interfering events. You may ask for an extension up to, but not exceeding, the amount of time remaining for the assignment, except for cases of emergencies. However, since this course runs on a strict timetable and your fellow students are counting on you, in many cases extensions cannot be granted.

Accommodations

If you'd like to request academic accommodations due to a disability, please contact Disability Support Services. If you have a letter from Student Services, please let me know so we can discuss those accommodations.

26-Jan: 01.1. How to Qual (36 Pages)

- Department of Political Science (2011) *Senior Thesis Handbook*. September 29 . Sections 3, 4, and 6
- Department of Political Science (2012) *Junior Qualifying Examination Handbook*. February 3 . Sections 1-4

2-Feb: 02.1. How to Ask Your Question (89 Pages)

- Gary King, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba (1994) The Science in Social Science. In King, Keohane and Verba *Designing Social Inquiry*. chapter 1, 3–33
- Darius M. Rejali (1995) Define Your Terms! Dictionaries, Medievals, and Thinking about Concepts. *PS: Political Science & Politics*. 28(3)September, 515–520 <<http://www.jstor.org/stable/420322>>
- Alexander Wendt (1998) On constitution and causation in International Relations. *Review of International Studies*. 24(5)December, 101–118 <<http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0260210598001028>>
- Steven Bernstein et al. (2000) God Gave Physics the Easy Problems: Adapting Social Science to an Unpredictable World. *European Journal of International Relations*. 6(1)March, 43–76 <<http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/1354066100006001003>>, ISSN 1354–0661, 1460–3713
- Robert Fannion (2012) *How to Formulate a Research Question: A Guide for the Casual Researcher*. POL 415
further
- Gary Goertz (2006) Introduction. In Goertz *Social Science Concepts: A User's Guide*. chapter 1, 1–24
- Gary Goertz (2008) Concepts, Theories, and Numbers: A Checklist for Constructing, Evaluating, and Using Concepts or Quantitative Measures. In Box-Steffensmeier, Brady and Collier *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*. chapter 5, 20
- Gary Goertz and James Mahoney (2006) Concepts in Theories: Two-Level Theories. In Goertz *Social Science Concepts: A User's Guide*. chapter 9, 237–268

Qual Draft Proposal due at noon on Feb 9

Mini Oral Presentations at noon on Feb 10 (Vollum 116) and Feb 11 (Vollum Lounge)

9-Feb: 03.1. How to Answer Your Question (104 Pages)

- Stephen Van Evera (1997) Hypotheses, Laws, and Theories: A users guide. In Van Evera *Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science*. chapter 1, 7–48
- Barbara Geddes (2003) Big Questions, Little Answers. How the Questions You Choose Affects the Answers You Get. In Geddes *Paradigms and Sandcastles: Theory Building and Research Design in Comparative Politics*. chapter 2, 27–88

further

- Henry E. Brady, David Collier, and Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier (2009) Overview of Political Methodology: Post-Behavioral Movements and Trends. In Goodin *The Oxford Handbook of Political Science*. chapter 48
- James A. Davis (1985) *The Logic of Causal Order*. SAGE, ISBN 9780803925533
- John Gerring (2005) What Standards are (or Might) be Shared? In Michèle Lamont and Patricia White, editors *Workshop on Interdisciplinary Standards for Systematic Qualitative Research*. National Science Foundation Supported Workshop, 107–123
- Paul Kellstedt and Guy Whitten (2013) Chap. 2-3 In Kellstedt and Whitten *The Fundamentals of Political Science Research*
- Gary King, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba (1994) Descriptive Inference. In King, Keohane and Verba *Designing Social Inquiry*. chapter 2, 34–74
- James Mahoney (2010) After KKV: The New Methodology of Qualitative Research. *World Politics*. 62(1)January, 120–147 <<http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0043887109990220>>, ISSN 1086–3338
- James Mahoney and Gary Goertz (2006) A Tale of Two Cultures: Contrasting Quantitative and Qualitative Research. *Political Analysis*. 14(3)June, 227–249 <<http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/pan/mpj017>>, ISSN 1047–1987, 1476–4989

16-Feb: 04.1. Political Theory Methods (28 Pages)

- John Rawls (2001) Four Roles of Political Philosophy. In *Justice as Fairness: A Restatement*. Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press <<http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/45388455>>, ISBN 0674005104, 1–5
- James Tully (2002) Political Philosophy as a Critical Activity. *Political Theory*. 30(4)August, 533–555 <<http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/0090591702304005>>, ISSN 0090–5917

further

- James Farr (2008) The History of Political Thought as Disciplinary Genre. In Dryzek, Honig and Phillips *The Oxford Handbook of Political Theory*. chapter 12, 10
- Arlene W. Saxonhouse (2008) Exile and Reentry: Political Theory Yesterday and Tomorrow. In Dryzek, Honig and Phillips *The Oxford Handbook of Political Theory*. chapter 46

16-Feb: 04.2. Political Theory Applications (50 Pages)

- C. B. MacPherson (1968) Elegant Tombstones: A Note on Friedman’s Freedom. *Canadian Journal of Political Science / Revue canadienne de science politique*. 1(1)March, 95–106 <<http://www.jstor.org/stable/3231697>>
- Wendy Brown (2006) American Nightmare: Neoliberalism, Neoconservatism, and De-Democratization. *Political Theory*. 34(6)December, 690–714 <<http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/0090591706293016>>
- Joan C. Tronto (2013) Introduction: When Care is No Longer “at Home”. In *Caring Democracy Markets, Equality, and Justice*. New York: New York University Press <<http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/837947709>>, ISBN 0814770452. chapter 1, 1–13

Library Session at 4:30 PM on Feb 17 in L17

23-Feb: 05.1. Conceptualization (29 Pages)

- Robert Adcock and David Collier (1999) Democracy and Dichotomies: A Pragmatic Approach to Choices about Concepts. *Annual Review of Political Science*. 2, 537–565

23-Feb: 05.2. Democracy: What’s in it? (58 Pages)

- Guillermo A. O’Donnell (1994) Delegative Democracy. *Journal of Democracy*. 5(1), 55–69 <<http://dx.doi.org/10.1353/jod.1994.0010>>, ISSN 1086–3214
- David Collier and Steven Levitsky (1997) Democracy with Adjectives: Conceptual Innovations in Comparative Research. *World Politics*. 49(3)April, 430–451 <<http://dx.doi.org/10.1353/wp.1997.0009>>
- Michael Coppedge et al. (2011) Conceptualizing and Measuring Democracy: A New Approach. *Perspectives on Politics*. 9(2)June, 247–267 <<http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S1537592711000880>>, ISSN 1541–0986

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- Barbara Geddes (1999) What Do We Know about Democratization after Twenty Years? *Annual Review of Political Science*. 2(1), 115–144 <<http://dx.doi.org/10.1146/annurev.polisci.2.1.115>>
- Peter H. Smith and Melissa R. Ziegler (2008) Liberal and Illiberal Democracy in Latin America. *Latin American Politics and Society*. 50(1), 31–57 <<http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1548-2456.2008.00003.x>>, ISSN 1548–2456

2-Mar: 06.1. Literature Reviews are Good for You (7 Pages)

- Hilton Obenzinger (2005) *What Can a Literature Review Do for Me? How to Research, Write, and Survive a Literature Review*. Stanford University

2-Mar: 06.2. Proliferation: Deconstructing Reviews (62 Pages)

- Scott D. Sagan (1996/97) Why Do States Build Nuclear Weapons? Three Models in Search of a Bomb. *International Security*. 21(3)Winter, 54–86 <<http://dx.doi.org/10.2307/2539273>>
- Tanya Ogilvie-White (1996) Is There a Theory of Nuclear Proliferation? An Analysis of the Contemporary Debate. *Nonproliferation Review*. 4(1)Fall, 43–60
- Jacques E. C. Hymans (2006) Theories of Nuclear Proliferation: The State of the Field. *Nonproliferation Review*. 13(3)November, 455–465 <<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10736700601071397>>

Qual Draft Annotated Bibliography due at noon on Mar 9

9-Mar: 07.1. Measurement (18 Pages)

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

9-Mar: 07.2. Measuring Regime Type (41 Pages)

- Alexander H. Montgomery (2013) Stop Helping Me: When Nuclear Assistance Impedes Nuclear Programs. In *The Nuclear Renaissance and International Security*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, ISBN 0804785309. chapter 7, 177–202
- Christopher Way and Jessica Weeks (2014) Making it Personal: Regime Type and Nuclear Proliferation. *American Journal of Political Science*. 58(3)July, 705–719 <<http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/ajps.12080>>

16-Mar: 08.1. Summarizing and Critiquing Prior Quals

23-Mar: 09.1. Spring Break

Qual Draft Outline due at noon on Mar 30

30-Mar: 10.1. Research Design Overview

6-Apr: 11.1. Case Study Research (96 Pages)

- Stephen Van Evera (1997) What Are Case Studies? How Should They be Performed? In Van Evera *Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science*. chapter 2, 49–88
- Barbara Geddes (2003) How the Cases You Choose Affect the Answers You Get: Selection Bias and Related Issues. In Geddes *Paradigms and Sandcastles: Theory Building and Research Design in Comparative Politics*. chapter 3, 89–129
- Jason Seawright and John Gerring (2008) Case Selection Techniques in Case Study Research: A Menu of Qualitative and Quantitative Options. *Political Research Quarterly*. 61(2)June, 294–308 <<http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/1065912907313077>>

further

- Alexander L. George and Andrew Bennett (2005) Chap. 2-5 In George and Bennett *Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences*, 37–108
- John Gerring (2004) What Is a Case Study and What Is It Good for? *American Political Science Review*. 98(2)May, 341–354 <<http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0003055404001182>>
- Gary King, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba (1994) Increasing the Number of Observations. In King, Keohane and Verba *Designing Social Inquiry*. chapter 6, 208–230
- Stanley Lieberson (1992) Small N's and Big Conclusions. In Ragin and Becker *What is a Case? Exploring the Foundations of Social Inquiry*
- James Mahoney and Gary Goertz (2004) The Possibility Principle: Choosing Negative Cases in Comparative Research. *American Political Science Review*. null(4)November, 653–669 <<http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0003055404041401>>, ISSN 1537–5943
- Gerardo L. Munck (2004) Tools for Qualitative Research. In Brady and Collier *Rethinking Social Inquiry: Diverse Tools, Shared Standards*
- Ragin and Becker
- Kurt Weyland (1998) Swallowing the Bitter Pill Sources of Popular Support for Neoliberal Reform in Latin America. *Comparative Political Studies*. 31(5)October, 539–568 <<http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/0010414098031005001>>, ISSN 0010–4140, 1552–3829

Qual Draft Research Design due at noon on Apr 13

Mini Oral Presentations at noon on Apr 14 and 15 in Vollum 120

13-Apr: 12.1. Public Policy Approaches (110 Pages)

- John W. Kingdon (1984) How Does an Idea's Time Come? In Kingdon *Agendas, Alternatives, and Public Policies*. chapter 1, 1–22
- John W. Kingdon (1984) Processes: Origins, Rationality, Incrementalism, and Garbage Cans. In Kingdon *Agendas, Alternatives, and Public Policies*. chapter 4, 75–94
- Deborah A. Stone (1989) Causal Stories and the Formation of Policy Agendas. *Political Science Quarterly*. 104(2), 281–300 <<http://dx.doi.org/10.2307/2151585>>, ISSN 00323195
- Paul A Sabatier (2007) The Need for Better Theories. In Sabatier *Theories of the Policy Process*. chapter 1, 3–17
- Paul A Sabatier (2007) Theories of the Policy Process. In Sabatier *Theories of the Policy Process*. chapter 6, 155–187

further

- Todd Bridgman and David Barry (2002) Regulation is Evil: An Application of Narrative Policy Analysis to Regulatory Debate in New Zealand. *Policy Sciences*. 35(2)June, 141–161 <<http://dx.doi.org/10.1023/A:1016139804995>>, ISSN 0032–2687, 1573–0891
- Rogan Kersh (2000) The Rhetorical Genesis of American Political Union. *Polity*. 33(2), 229–257 <<http://dx.doi.org/10.2307/3235489>>, ISSN 00323497
- Suzanne Mettler (2005) The Creation of the G.I. Bill of Rights of 1944: Melding Social and Participatory Citizenship Ideals. *Journal of Policy History*. 17(4)October, 345–374 <<http://dx.doi.org/10.1353/jph.2005.0022>>, ISSN 1528–4190

20-Apr: 13.1. Writing I: Sentences (86 Pages)

- George Orwell (1946) *Politics and the English Language*. <<http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/orwell46.htm>>
- Joseph M. Williams (1990) Chap. 1-4 In *Williams Style*, 1–79

27-Apr: 14.1. Writing II: Structure (130 Pages)

- Joseph M. Williams (1990) Chap. 5-10 In *Williams Style*, 80–198
- John Gerring, Joshua Yesnowitz, and Stephen Bird (2013) *General Advice on Social Science Writing*. June Blog post <<http://blogs.bu.edu/jgerring/files/2013/06/Adviceonessaywriting.pdf>>

Qual Final due at noon on May 11