Goals
The purpose of this methods course is to provide students with an overview of the main methods used in world politics research, incl. case study, quantitative, and formal models. Central to this course is the application of methods. Students who have successfully taken this course will be prepared to make methodology-related decisions in their future research.

Prerequisites
Students are recommended to have taken at least four political science courses, one of which must be a course in world politics. In addition, students should enjoy thinking about social science phenomena from a methodological perspective.

Course Requirements
This seminar combines
(i) intensive readings in advance of the sessions,
(ii) a series of exercises and assignments (see below for details), and
(iii) oral participation.

The papers will be written according to the schedule (see below). The first four papers and the expose of the research proposal are two pages each. The more elaborate research design is five pages in length.

In the papers, you should not review the material covered in the required readings, it is assumed that you have read it! Instead, focus on the assignment (read the instructions carefully!) and innovate in a way not found in the readings. Leave the reader with the impression that your ideas have been carefully chosen and could be expanded upon in a longer paper. Please note that keeping it short is the art of structuring one’s mind and concentrating on the main points rather than on peripheral considerations. It is harder to write a convincing two-page paper than a long term-paper!

Please mention your University of Michigan ID Number in the beginning of the paper as well as the paper topic (omit your name!). At a minimum, leave one inch margins from all four edges of letter-sized sheets. Footnotes are strongly discouraged. All text is 1.5-spaced, 11-12 point font. Bibliographic references do not count towards the page limit, but should be kept concise. Paper length will be strictly enforced. Papers shall be submitted via CTools (http://ctools.umich.edu) by the due date and time. Missing the deadline will incur a penalty of one third of a letter grade per 24 hours. Extensions will be granted only under extraordinary circumstances, following written petition.

Students are expected to attend all sessions. In case you cannot submit assignments due to medical reasons, you must submit an appropriate medical excuse.
Grading

1. Short Papers: Three best (out of first four) two-page papers, each weighting 15%. Short Paper total = 45%.

2. Expose of Research Design: no grade, but mandatory prerequisite for one-to-one counseling and for the five-page research design.

3. Research Design: 30%

4. Oral Participation: 25%. This also includes the presentation of the research design.

Intellectual Honesty

You are expected to have familiarized yourself with the University of Michigan's policy on intellectual honesty by the time of the first paper assignment. The policy can be found at http://www.lsa.umich.edu/academicintegrity/students/index.htm. You are expected to undertake all your research independently of other students.

Overview

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Textbooks
The following textbooks are used throughout this course:


You may compare prices at www.bookbutler.com, www.half.com, and www.amazon.com. Additional required readings will be included in a coursepack. Copies of the coursepack will be made available for purchase at Dollar Bill shortly. I will also place a coursepack on reserve in the library. In addition, substantial parts of the coursepack (see required readings) are available electronically to UM library patrons.

Detailed Schedule, Readings, and Assignments

**Week 1: 07 Sept. 2006:** Course Overview

Overview of the Course & Requirements

**Week 2: 14 Sept. 2006:** Epistemological Foundations (Part 1 of 2)

Colloquium

**Required Readings:**


**Additional Readings:**

First Paper Due on 20 Sept. 2006, 4:00 p.m. (see details below)

Colloquium

Required Readings:

King, Keohane, and Verba (1994), ch. 3.

Additional Readings:

Paper: You will have access to information on a stock market competition between three major groups (Investment Dartboard). Please review the history of all completed and the “current” competitions. Subsequently analyze and summarize the findings and evaluate them from a methodological perspective (see readings for Weeks 2 & 3). The relevant files will be supplied to you via CTools.

Week 4: 28 Sept. 2006: Quantitative Methods (Part 1 of 2)

Colloquium

Required Readings:
Sprinz & Wolinsky-Nahmias (2004), chs. 6-9.

Week 5: 05 Oct. 2006: Quantitative Methods (Part 2 of 2)

Second Paper Due on Thursday, 04 Sep. 2006, 4:00 p.m. (see details below)

Colloquium

Required Readings:


Additional Readings:

**Paper**: Abstract a quantitative article from the 2005 or 2006 volumes of a major world politics journal (e.g., Journal of Conflict Resolution, International Studies Quarterly, Conflict and Cooperation, International Organization, American Journal of Political Science, American Political Science Review, World Politics, Journal of Peace Research, etc.) using the Singer & Packer (2003) tableau. The goal of this exercise is to abstract a world politics article according to predefined categories and to focus on the interplay of theory and methodology. Please enclose an electronic copy of the journal article.

**12 Oct. 2006:**  
**Intensive Reading Period**

**Week 6: 19 Oct. 2006:**  
**Case Study Methods (Part 1 of 2)**

Colloquium

**Required Readings:**
Sprinz & Wolinsky-Nahmias (2004), chs. 2-5.
[http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayIssue?jid=PSR&volum eid=98&issueId=02](http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayIssue?jid=PSR&volum eid=98&issueId=02).

**Additional Readings:**
Thomas, George (2005): The Qualitative Foundations of Political Science Methodology. *Perspectives on Politics* 3 (4):855-866,  
[http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayIssue?jid=PPS&volum eid=3&issueId=04](http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayIssue?jid=PPS&volum eid=3&issueId=04).

**Week 7: 26 Oct. 2006:**  
**Case Study Methods (Part 2 of 2)**

*Third Paper Due on 25 Oct. 2006, 4:00 p.m. (see details below)*

Colloquium

**Required Readings:**
King, Keohane, and Verba (1994), ch. 2.


http://www.jstor.org/cgibin/jstor/printpage/00030554/di975222/97p0374a/0.pdf?backcontext=table-of-contents&dowhat=Acrobat&config=jstor&userID=8dd39bb2@umich.edu/01cc9933995c0510d858d459a&0.pdf

http://www.jstor.org/cgibin/jstor/printpage/00030554/di975222/97p0375b/0.pdf?backcontext=table-of-contents&dowhat=Acrobat&config=jstor&userID=8dd39bb2@umich.edu/01cc9933995c0510d858d459a&0.pdf

http://www.jstor.org/cgibin/jstor/printpage/00030554/di975222/97p0376c/0.pdf?userID=8dd39bb2@umich.edu/01cc9933995c0510d858d459a&backcontext=table-of-contents&dowhat=Acrobat&config=jstor&0.pdf

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http://www.jstor.org/cgibin/jstor/printpage/00030554/di975222/97p0378e/0.pdf?backcontext=table-of-contents&dowhat=Acrobat&config=jstor&userID=8dd39bb2@umich.edu/01cc9933995c0510d858d459a&0.pdf

http://www.jstor.org/cgibin/jstor/printpage/00030554/di975222/97p0379f/0.pdf?backcontext=table-of-contents&dowhat=Acrobat&config=jstor&userID=8dd39bb2@umich.edu/01cc9933995c0510d858d459a&0.pdf

Additional Readings:


Paper: Homer-Dixon (1996) presents a comparative case research strategy for the investigation of environmental security problems. Which are the main advantages and disadvantages of his approach in view of the readings for Weeks 6 and 7? You may wish to check the presentation slide for week 6 regarding “setting up your research” for a potential checklist.
Week 8: 02 Nov. 2006:  

**Formal Modeling: Game Theory (Part 1 of 2)**

**Colloquium**

**Required Readings:**

**Additional Readings:**

Week 9: 09 Nov. 2006:

**Formal Modeling: Game Theory (Part 2 of 3)**

*Fourth Paper Due on Wednesday, 08 Nov. 2006, 4:00 p.m (for details, see below).*

**Prisoners’ Dilemma Game Played in Class**

**Required Readings:**

**Additional Readings:**


**Paper:** Discuss the Prisoner’s Dilemma (PD) game: For which types of problems in world politics is the PD game a good representation and for which types of problems is it inadequate?

**Week 10: 16 Nov. 2006:**

**Long-Term Policy Problems**

**Note:** Develop an idea on which long-term policy problem you wish to choose prior to this meeting. Bring a one-paragraph written note with you (2 copies) to class on 16 Nov. 2006.

Please develop a two-page (ungraded) expose for a research design of a long-term policy problems, submit it to CTools by 19 Nov. 2006, and sign up for mandatory one-to-one counseling session on 20 Nov. 2006, at my office.

Presentation of Research Design During All Day Session of Class on 30 Nov. 2006 (ca. 15 minutes total per person).

**Full Five-Page Paper due on 08 Dec. 2006, 11:59 pm.**

**Colloquium**

**Required Readings:**


**Research Design Assignment:**

- Pick one long-term policy issue (you are not limited to those mentioned in the readings).
- Describe the long-term problem inherent in the issue chosen.
- Which is your specific query (be specific, one sentence)? For example, you may investigate the effect that specific policy measures may have in terms of long-term outcomes.
- Which research method do you propose to use? Outline a research strategy to research the query chosen (be specific). Aspects of the Singer/Parker template may be useful to structure your research strategy. You should take full advantage of the methods compendium covered in this course.
23 Nov. 2006:  Thanksgiving Holiday

Week 11: 30 Nov. 2006:  Presentations of Research Designs

This session will take place in the Eldersveld Room of the Department of Political Science, 6th floor, Haven Hall, from 3:00 – 6:30.

Please upload your presentation files (MS PowerPoint or OpenOffice.org) to CTools by 29 Nov. 2006, 4:00 pm. All presentation files will be circulated by myself to all course participants via e-mail attachment.

Precise Meeting Times and Order of Presentations Will Be Determined Later.

You will give a ca. 7.5 minute presentation, followed by up to 7.5 minutes of discussion.

Week 12: 07 Dec. 2006  What Have We Learnt? – A Review & Outlook

Five-Page Research Design Paper Due on 08 Dec. 2006, via CTools.

Review & Outlook
Course Evaluation

Required Readings:
Sprinz & Wolinsky-Nahmias (2004), chs. 1 + 15.

Additional Readings:
Perestroika Debate Readings: See links provided at:
http://polisci.uoregon.edu/syllabi/archive/PS600's/PS620/PS620F03.html
Moses, Jonathan, Benoit Rihoux, and Bernhard Kittel (2005): Mapping Political Methodology. European Political Science 4:55-68,
http://www.svt.ntnu.no/iss/Jonathon.Moses/Personal/EPS%20methodology.pdf#search=%22%22mapping%20political%20methodology%22%20moses%22