

Political Science 498.002

Methods for Studying World Politics

Fall 2006

Professor Detlef Sprinz
Office: 6640 Haven Hall
Phone: 647-3247
Email: dsprinz@umich.edu
Course website: <http://ctools.umich.edu>
Office Hours: Tuesday 2:00–4:00 & by appointment

Seminar: Th: 3:00-5:00
2448 Mason Hall

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

Part	Week	Date	Topic	Assignment
1. Introduction	1	07 Sept. 2006	Course Overview	
2. Epistemological Foundations	2	14 Sept. 2006	Epistemological Foundations (Part 1 of 2)	
	3	21 Sept. 2006	Epistemological Foundations (Part 2 of 2)	Investment dashboard paper (due 20 Sept. 2006)
3. Quantitative Methods	4	28 Sept. 2006	Quantitative Methods (Part 1 of 2)	
	5	05 Oct. 2006	Quantitative Methods (Part 2 of 2)	Systematic abstract of statistical journal article (due 04 Oct. 2006)
		12 Oct. 2006	Intensive Reading Period	
4. Case Study Methods	6	19 Oct. 2006	Case Study Methods (Part 1 of 2)	
	7	26 Oct. 2006	Case Study Methods (Part 2 of 2)	Case study paper critique (due 25 Oct. 2006)
5. Formal Modeling	8	02 Nov. 2006	Formal Modeling: Game Theory (Part 1 of 2)	
	9	09 Nov. 2006	Formal Modeling: Game Theory (Part 2 of 2)	Prisoner's dilemma paper (due 08 Nov. 2006)
6. Research Design	10	16 Nov. 2006	Long-Term Policy Research Design (any method)	Expose (due 19 Nov. 2006)
		23 Nov. 2006	Thanksgiving Holiday	
	11	30 Nov. 2006	Presentation of Long-Term Policy Research Designs	Presentation files (due 29 Nov. 2006)
7. Review & Outlook	12	07 Dec. 2006	What Have We Learnt ? – A Review & Outlook	Long-Term Policy Research Design (due 08 Dec. 2006)

Textbooks

The following textbooks are used throughout this course:

Sprinz, Detlef F., and Yael Wolinsky-Nahmias (eds, 2004): *Models, Numbers, and Cases: Methods for Studying International Relations*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press [henceforth: *Sprinz & Wolinsky-Nahmias (2004)*].

King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba (1994). *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton: Princeton University Press [henceforth: *King, Keohane, and Verba (1994)*].

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:

Sprinz & Wolinsky-Nahmias (2004), ch. 1, <http://www.press.umich.edu/pdf/0472098616-intro.pdf>.

King, Keohane, and Verba (1994), ch. 1,

<http://www.pupress.princeton.edu/chapters/s5458.pdf#search=%22ing%20keohane%20verba%22>.

Lakatos, Imre (1986): Falsification and the Methodology of Scientific Research Programmes. In: Lakatos, Imre and Alan Musgrave (ed.): *Criticism and the Growth of Knowledge*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 91-138 & 173-180.

Additional Readings:

Wendt, Alexander (1999): *Social Theory of International Politics*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1-44.

Week 3: 21 Sept. 2006: Epistemological Foundations (Part 2 of 2)

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

Colloquium

Required Readings:

Shadish, William R., Thomas D. Cook, and Donald Thomas Campbell (2002): *Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs For Generalized Causal Inference*. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1-102.
King, Keohane, and Verba (1994), ch. 3.

Additional Readings:

Gerring, John (2005): Causation: A Unified Framework for the Social Sciences. *Journal of Theoretical Politics* 17 (2): 163-198,
<http://jtp.sagepub.com/cgi/reprint/17/2/163?gca=17%2F2%2F163&sendit=Get+All+Checked+Abstract%28s%29&> .

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:

King, Keohane, and Verba (1994), ch 4.
Esty, Daniel C. et al. (1999): State Failure Task Force: Phase II Findings, in: *Environmental Change & Security Project Report* Issue 5, 49-72.
<http://wwics.si.edu/topics/pubs/ACF26A.pdf> (pages 49-72 only!).
King, Gary, and Langche Zeng (2001): Improving Forecasts of State Failure, in: *World Politics* 53: 623-658, <http://gking.harvard.edu/files/civil.pdf>.

Additional Readings:

Greene, William H. (2003): *Econometric Analysis*. Fifth edition ed. Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Prentice Hall.

Hauge, Wenche and Tanja Ellingsen (1998): Beyond Environmental Scarcity: Causal Pathways to Conflict. *Journal of Peace Research* 35 (3): 299-317.

Kennedy, Peter (2003): *A Guide to Econometrics*. 5th ed. Malden, MA: Blackwell.

Sprinz, Detlef F. (1998): Domestic Politics and European Acid Rain Regulation. In: Underdal, Arild (ed.): *The Politics of International Environmental Management*. Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic Publishers, 41-66.

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.

Gerring, John (2004): What Is A Case Study and What Is It Good For? *American Political Science Review* 98 (2):341-354,

<http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayIssue?jid=PSR&volumeId=98&issueId=02>

Additional Readings:

George, Alexander L, and Andrew Bennett (2005) *Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.

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&volumeId=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.

Homer-Dixon, Thomas (1996): Strategies for Studying Causation in Complex Ecological-Political Systems. *Journal of Environment and Development* 5 (2): 132-148.

Review Symposium: The Qualitative-Quantitative Disputation: Gary King, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba's Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research, in: *American Political Science Review* 89 (2): 454-481, comprising 6 articles:

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

<http://www.jstor.org/cgi-bin/jstor/printpage/00030554/di975222/97p0377d/0.pdf?userID=8dd39bb2@umich.edu/01cc9933995c0510d858d459a&backcontext=table-of-contents&dowhat=Acrobat&config=jstor&0.pdf>

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

Additional Readings:

Brady, Henry E., and David Collier (eds., 2004): *Rethinking Social Inquiry: Diverse Tools, Shared Standards*. Lanham, MD.: Rowman & Littlefield, esp. chs. 12+13.

Przeworski, Adam and Henry Teune (1970): *The Logic of Comparative Social Inquiry*. New York, N.Y.: Wiley-Interscience.

Schwartz, Daniel M., Tom Deligiannis, and Thomas F. Homer-Dixon (2000): The Environment and Violent Conflict: A Response to Gleditsch's Critique and Some Suggestions for Future Research. *Environmental Change & Security Project Report*, Issue 6, <http://www.uni-potsdam.de/u/sprinz/doc/ECSP%20Report6-5.pdf>.

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:

Sprinz & Wolinsky-Nahmias (2004), chs. 10-14.

Additional Readings:

Axelrod, Robert (1984): *The Evolution of Cooperation*. New York: Basic Books.

Helm, Carsten and Detlef Sprinz (2000): Measuring the Effectiveness of International Environmental Regimes. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 45 (5): 630-652.

Olson, Mancur (1971): *The Logic of Collective Action - Public Goods and the Theory of Groups*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

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:

Weingast, Barry (2002): Rational Choice Institutionalism. In: Katznelson, Ira and Helen Milner (eds.): *Political Science: The State of the Discipline*. New York, NY: W W Norton, 660-692.

Cameron, Charles M. and Rebecca Morton (2002): Formal Theory Meets Data. In: Katznelson, Ira and Helen Milner (eds.): *Political Science: The State of the Discipline*. New York, NY: W W Norton, 784-804.

Hovi, Jon, Robert Huseby, and Detlef F. Sprinz (2005): When Do (Imposed) Economic Sanctions Work? *World Politics* 57 (4):479-499,

http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/world_politics/v057/57.4hovi.pdf

Additional Readings:

E-Course in Game Theory: <http://william-king.www.drexel.edu/top/eco/game/game.html>.

Green, Donald P. and Ian Shapiro (1994): *Pathologies of Rational Choice Theory: A Critique of Applications in Political Science*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Hovi, Jon, Detlef F. Sprinz, and Arild Underdal (2003): Regime Effectiveness and the Oslo-Potsdam Solution: A Rejoinder to Oran Young. *Global Environmental Politics* 3 (3):105-107.

Hovi, Jon, Detlef F. Sprinz, and Arild Underdal (2003): The Oslo-Potsdam Solution to Measuring Regime Effectiveness: Critique, Response, And Extensions. *Global Environmental Politics* 3 (3):74-96.

Hovi, Jon, Robert Huseby, and Detlef F. Sprinz (2005): When Do (Imposed) Economic Sanctions Work? *World Politics* 57 (4):479-499.

Morrow, James D. (1994): *Game Theory for Political Scientists*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press.

Walt, Stephen M. (1999): Rigor or Rigor Mortis? Rational Choice and Security Studies. *International Security* 23: 5-48 & discussion in vol. 24, issue 2.

Young, Oran R. (2001): Inferences and Indices: Evaluating the Effectiveness of International Environmental Regimes. *Global Environmental Politics* 1 (1): 99-121.

Young, Oran R. (2003): Determining Regime Effectiveness: A Commentary on the Oslo-Potsdam Solution. *Global Environmental Politics* 3 (3):97-104.

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:

Sprinz, Detlef F. (2006): Long-Term Policy Problems: Definition, Origin, and Responses> Prepared for inclusion in Frank Wayman et al. (eds.) *Illuminating the Shadow of the Future: Scientific Prediction and the Human Condition*. Ann Arbor, MI: The University of Michigan Press, <http://www.uni-potsdam.de/u/sprinz/doc/Sprinz.LoPo.Overview.pdf>

Kotlikoff, Laurence J. (2006): Averting America's Bankruptcy with a New Deal. *The Economists' Voice* 3 (2), <http://www.bepress.com/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1137&context=ev>

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.

Eakin, Emily (2000): Think Tank, Political Scientists Leading a Revolt, Not Studying One. *The New York Times*, 04 Nov. 2000.

Additional Readings:

Miles, E. L., A. Underdal, et al. (2002): *Environmental Regime Effectiveness: Confronting Theory with Evidence*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, chs. 1, 2, 17.

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>