

Politics 506
Qualitative Methods
Department of Politics, Princeton University
Spring Term 2012

Wednesdays 1:30-4:20pm
Corwin 127 (*with some exceptions)

Evan S. Lieberman
239 Corwin Hall
Office hours: via WASS
E-mail: ESL@Princeton.edu
Telephone: 258-6833

Overview:

The central goal of this seminar is to provide graduate students with a set of analytic tools for carrying out empirical research in political science. As a complement to other methods courses, particularly in statistical or quantitative methods, in this seminar, we will focus on a set of techniques that -- for lack of a better name -- are generally called “qualitative” methods. The issues we raise, including concept formation and measurement, should apply to any mode of empirical analysis, but rather than mapping observations to numbers, or drawing inferences through statistical summaries, we will use narrative modes of summary and logical analysis.

We will identify the types of theoretical and empirical concerns that are typically associated with in-depth analysis of a small number of cases, and the challenges of carrying out systematic research. Subsequently, we will consider the strengths and weaknesses of a variety of approaches and techniques including case selection, process tracing, structured comparison, periodization, analytic narrative, and the integration of qualitative and statistical methods in research design. The seminar will also include discussion of the mechanics of qualitative research, including field methods, in-depth interviewing, and archival research. While the readings tend to be drawn from the sub-field of comparative politics, we will discuss applications to a variety of sub-fields, particularly in response to specific student interests.

Our goal should be to develop the skills for completing high quality, self-conscious, analysis using non-statistical forms of analysis. As such, the written assignments are geared towards practical exercises rather than literature reviews or major research papers. **Although I discourage this option, you may replace the exercises with a long paper, but you will need to write this in stages in coordination with the assignments for the course – you must see me immediately if you want to pursue this option.**

Each week we will read the methodological literature and a set of examples. Please come to seminar prepared to discuss the examples in light of the methodological issues under consideration.

Prerequisites:

Although there are no formal pre-requisites for the course, you should complete the field seminar in your primary field (comparative politics, international relations, or American politics) prior to enrolling. Moreover, some background in statistics would be helpful and/or some inclination of substantive research questions that you would like to consider. For students without a background in basic regression analysis, or for those who want to brush up on the basic strategies, you might look at

Schroeder, Larry, David L. Sjoquist, and Paula E. Stephan. *Understanding Regression Analysis: An Introductory Guide. Quantitative Applications in the Social Sciences, Sage University Paper #57.* Sage Publications; and/or

Achen, Christopher H. 1982. *Interpreting and Using Regression.* Beverly Hills, Calif.: Sage Publications, and some introductory textbooks in statistics.

Policy on auditors: No auditors will be allowed in this seminar. Sorry. No exceptions.

Books for purchase: (available at Labyrinth)

Brady, Henry E., and David Collier, eds. 2010. *Rethinking Social Inquiry: Diverse Tools, Shared Standards.* Berkeley, CA: Rowman & Littlefield and Berkeley Public Policy Press.

King, Gary, Robert Keohane, and Sidney Verba. *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research.* Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1994.

Gerring, John. *Social Science Methodology: A Critical Framework.* Cambridge ; New York: Cambridge University Press, 2001.

Books strongly suggested for purchase:

Martin, Lisa. 1992. *Coercive Cooperation: Explaining Multilateral Economic Sanctions.* Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press.

Marx, Anthony. *Making Race and Nation.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998.

Course requirements:

1. Problem sets/ written exercises: There will be five short papers/exercises – each should be emailed to me on the dates specified by 5pm. Late papers will be docked one-third grade for every three days they are late.

Due Dates:

Assignment #1: Feb 27

Assignment #2: March 12

Assignment #3: March 26

Assignment #4: April 30

Assignment #5: Dean's date – May 15

2. Weekly notes – approximately 1-2pp on each of the assigned readings. These should very succinctly summarize the main points of each reading. Not copy and paste quotations, but a very quick abstract of what the reading was about, sometimes with a few sentences of critical reflection or synthesis. These are to be done individually, not collaboratively. I will reserve the right to collect these, but they are really for your own use to maintain a library of notes and reflections.

3. Weekly attendance and active participation in seminar. This is important for the success of the seminar – please come prepared with thoughts, comments, and questions. “Shyness” is not a valid excuse!

4. A presentation on your work in progress. If our group is relatively small, we will do all of these during our last meeting; if not, we will schedule some for earlier in the term.

Grading:

- Class participation: 25 percent of final grade (includes presentation)
- Written assignments: 75 percent of final grade.

Blackboard:

We will use the university’s course software – blackboard.com – accessible through Princeton’s home page as a forum for communicating messages, distributing documents, posting papers, accessing web-links.

The readings are available on Electronic Course Reserves via Blackboard.

Codes: [B] – Book available for purchase or library; [D] – Distributed via blackboard in the course materials section or in class; [R] – electronic course reserve via blackboard

Seminar I: Introduction: Craft, method, the search for good questions and good answers in social research (Feb 8)

Introduction by Snyder and interviews with Stepan and Laitin from Munck, Gerardo L., and Richard Snyder. *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2007 (chs 1, 12, 16)

Seminar II: Research design and qualitative methods relative to statistical and experimental approaches; debates about what constitutes “good” social science research (Feb 15)

King, Gary, Robert Keohane, and Sidney Verba. *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1994, Chapter 1 [B]

Brady and Collier, Chapters 1-4 [B]

Gerring, Chapters 1-2 [B]

Examples:

Martin, Lisa L. 1992. *Coercive Cooperation: Explaining Multilateral Economic Sanctions*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, xii-12.

Dunning, Thad. 2008. *Crude democracy : natural resource wealth and political regimes. of Cambridge studies in comparative politics*. Cambridge ; New York: Cambridge University Press, Skim chapter 4 (107-47); Read Chapter 5 (148-209).

Strongly suggested:

Achen, Christopher H. 2005. "Let's Put Garbage-Can Regressions and Garbage-Can Probits Where They Belong." *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 22:327-39.

Seminar III: Concepts, typologies, measurement, and description (Feb 22)

King, Gary, Robert Keohane, and Sidney Verba. *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1994, 34-74. [B]

Adcock, Robert, and David Collier. "Measurement Validity: A Shared Standard for Qualitative and Quantitative Research." *American Political Science Review* 95, no. 3 (2001): 529-47. [R]

Sartori, Giovanni. "Concept Misformation in Comparative Politics." *The American Political Science Review* 64, no. 4 (1970): 1033-53. [R]

David Collier and Steven Levitsky, "Democracy with Adjectives: Conceptual Innovation in Comparative Research," *World Politics*, Vol. 49, No. 3 (April 1997) pp. 430-451. [R]

Ragin, Charles C. *Fuzzysset Social Science*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000, pp. 64-87, 149-180. [R]

Gerring chapters 3,4

Examples:

(For each, please be prepared to discuss, what are the main variables involved in the theory, what are the conceptual and measurement concerns, and how are they ultimately addressed by the author?)

Martin, Lisa. 1992. *Coercive Cooperation: Explaining Multilateral Economic Sanctions*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 46-60 [B]

PICK ONE:

Diamond, Larry. "Thinking About Hybrid Regimes," *Journal of Democracy*, 2002, vol. 13, no. 2. [R]

Horowitz, Donald. 1985. *Ethnic Groups in Conflict*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 3-54. [R]

Optional/Further reading:

Coppedge, Michael. "Thickening Thin Concepts and Theories." *Comparative Politics* 31, no. 4 (1999): 465-77. [R]

Collier, David, and Robert Adcock. "Democracy and Dichotomies: A Pragmatic Approach to Choices About Concepts." *Annual Review of Political Science* 2, no. 1 (1999): 537-66. [R]

Gerring, John. *Social Science Methodology: A Criterial Framework*. Cambridge ; New York: Cambridge University Press, 2001, pp.35-88. [B]

Lieberman, Evan S. 2003. *Race and Regionalism in the Politics of Taxation in Brazil and South Africa, Cambridge studies in comparative politics*. Cambridge, UK ; New York: Cambridge University Press, chapter two. [R]

Seminar IV. Causation, explanation (Feb 29)

Campbell, D. T., & Stanley, J. C. (1966). *Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs for Research*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., pp.5-27; 31-4. [D]

King, Gary, Robert Keohane, and Sidney Verba. *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1994, chapter 3: pp.76-114. [B]

Gerring Chapters 5-7.

Qualitative Methods Newsletter Symposium on Necessary Conditions. 2005, 3:1, 22-31.
Available at: <http://www.asu.edu/clas/polisci/cqrm/Newsletter/Newsletter3.1.pdf>

Elster, Jon, "A Plea for Mechanisms," in Hedström and Swedberg (eds.) *Social Mechanisms. An Analytical Approach to Social Theory* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1998), pp. 45-73. [R]

Mahoney, J. and G. Goertz. 2006. "A tale of two cultures: Contrasting quantitative and qualitative research." *Political Analysis* 14:227-249.

Examples:

(For each, be prepared to describe and to discuss the specification of the causal theory as well as potential rival causal theories from each piece.)

Martin, Lisa. 1992. *Coercive Cooperation: Explaining Multilateral Economic Sanctions*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 15-45.

PICK ONE:

Collier, Ruth Berins, and David Collier. *Shaping the Political Arena*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2002, pp.ix-39. [R]

Marx, Anthony. *Making Race and Nation*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998, pp.1-76.

...for those interested in Fuzzy-set/QCA or Necessary/Sufficient Conditions:

Ragin, Charles C. *Fuzzy-set Social Science*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000.

Katz, Aaron, Matthias vom Hau, and James Mahoney. 2004. Explaining the Great Reversal in Spanish America: Fuzzy Set Analysis versus Statistical Analysis. Providence, RI: Brown University. (mimeo) [D]

Janoski, Thomas, and Alexander M. Hicks. *The Comparative Political Economy of the Welfare State, Cambridge Studies in Comparative Politics*. Cambridge, UK ; New York, NY, USA: Cambridge University Press, 1994, pp.320-345. [R]

Blake, Charles H., "The Enactment of National Health Insurance: A Boolean Analysis of Twenty Advanced Industrial Democracies," *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law*, Volume 26, Number 4, August 2001.

Seminar V. Evidence: Sources, replication, and analysis (March 7)

- Lustick, Ian S. "History, Historiography, and Political Science: Multiple Historical Records and the Problem of Selection Bias." *American Political Science Review* 90, no. 3 (1996): 605-18. [R]
- Andrew Moravcsik, *The Choice for Europe: Social Purpose and State Power from Messina to Maastricht*, Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1998, pp.10-17, 24, 28, 176-197, 473-479. [R]
- Robert H. Lieshout, Mathieu L.L. Segers and Anna M. van der Vleuten, "The Choice for Europe: Soft Sources, Weak Evidence," *Journal of Cold War Studies*, 6:4 (Fall 2004), pp. 89-139. [R]
- Moravcsik, Andrew. "Active Citation: A Precondition for Replicable Qualitative Research." *PS: Political Science & Politics* 43, no. 01 (2010): 29-35.
- Lieberman, Evan. "Bridging the Qualitative-Quantitative Divide: Best Practices in the Development of Historically Oriented Replication Databases." *Annual Review of Political Science* 13 (2010): 37-59.
- Davenport, Christian, and Patrick Ball. 2002. "Views to a Kill: Exploring the Implications of Source Selection in the Case of Guatemalan State Terror, 1977-1995." *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* 46 (3):427-50. [D]

**Exercise: Put all of the historical data (focus on the footnotes) from Lisa Martin's Chapter 7 (pp169-203) into the database presented to you in seminar.

Seminar VI. Case studies, narratives and process tracing (March 14)

- Eckstein, Harry. "Case Study and Theory in Political Science." In *Handbook of Political Science*, edited by Fred Greenstein and Nelson Polsby, Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley Publishing Co., 1975, pp.79-117. [R]
- Gerring, John. 2004. What is a Case Study and What is it Good For? *American Political Science Review* 98 (2):341-54. [R]
- King, Gary, Robert Keohane, and Sidney Verba. *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1994, pp.208-230. [B]
- Brady & Collier, chapters 9, 12 (McKeown; Collier, Brady, Seawright) [B]
- Bates, Robert H., Avner Greif, Margaret Levi, Jean-Laurent Rosenthal, and Barry R. Weingast. 1998. *Analytic Narratives*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 3-22. [R]
- Collier, David. 2011. Understanding Process Tracing. *PS: Political Science & Politics* 44 (04): 823-830.

Examples:

(For each, what is learned and not learned from the case studies? How were these carried out? Using what types of sources? How were those data analyzed?)

Martin, Lisa. 1992. *Coercive Cooperation: Explaining Multilateral Economic Sanctions*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, chapter 6 on Falklands crisis.

Look again at Dunning chapter 5.

Optional/suggested:

Andrew Bennett and Colin Elman, Qualitative Research: Recent Developments in Case Study Methods, *Annual Review of Political Science* 2006, pp. 455-476. [R]

Morgan, Kimberly, "The Politics of Mothers' Employment: France in Comparative Perspective," *World Politics*, 55,2, January 2003: pp.259-289. [R]

Bates, Robert H., Avner Greif, Margaret Levi, Jean-Laurent Rosenthal, and Barry R. Weingast. *Analytic Narratives*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1998, other selections (examples). [R]

"Analytic Narratives by Bates, Greif, Levi, Rosenthal, and Weingast: A Review and Response," *American Political Science Review* 94, no.3 (2000): 685-702. [R]

.....
SPRING BREAK
.....

Seminar VII. Case selection – sampling; debates about selection bias; nested research designs (March 28)

Geddes, Barbara. "How the Cases You Choose Affect the Answers You Get: Selection Bias in Comparative Politics." *Political Analysis* 2 (1990): 131-50. [R]

King, Gary, Robert Keohane, and Sidney Verba. *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1994, pp.115-149, 199-207.

Brady and Collier, chapter 6 (Collier, Mahoney, & Seawright) [B]

Lieberman, Evan. "Nested Analysis as a Mixed Method Strategy for Comparative Research," (*American Political Science Review* 2005). [R]

Rohlfing, Ingo. 2007. "What You See and What You Get: Pitfalls and Principles of Nested Analysis in Comparative Research." *Comparative Political Studies*.

Example:

Howard, Marc Morjé and Philip G. Roessler. 2006. "Liberalizing Electoral Outcomes in Competitive Authoritarian Regimes." *American Journal of Political Science* 50:365-381 [R]

Other examples (optional):

Michael Coppedge, "Explaining Democratic Deterioration in Venezuela Through Nested Inference," in Frances Hagopian and Scott Mainwaring, eds., *The Third Wave of Democratization in Latin America* (Cambridge University Press, 2005). [R]

See Fearon and Laitin's "Random Narratives" project: Read the short article -- Fearon, J.D., and D.D. Laitin. 2008. "Integrating Qualitative and Quantitative Methods." In *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, eds. J.M. Box-Steffensmeier, H.E. Brady and D. Collier: Oxford University Press, USA. 756-78; and read one narrative at:

<http://www.stanford.edu/group/ethnic/Random20Narratives/random20narratives.htm>

Seminar VIII. Comparative Historical Analysis – macro-historical theorizing, key strategies, methods of inference (April 4)

Today's seminar will be held in 008 Robertson

Collier, David. "The Comparative Method: Two Decades of Change." In *Comparative Political Dynamics*, edited by Dankwart A. Rustow and Kenneth Paul Erickson. New York: Harper Collins, 1991, pp.7-31. [R]

Mahoney, James and Dietrich Rueschemeyer (eds.), *Comparative-Historical Analysis in the Social Sciences*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2002, Chapters 1 (Mahoney and Reuschmeyer), and 11 (Hall). [R]

Pierson, Paul. "Increasing Returns, Path Dependence, and the Study of Politics." *American Political Science Review* 94, no. 2 (2000): 251-67. [R]

Jim Mahoney, "Strategies of Causal Inference in Small-n Analysis," *Sociological Methods and Research*, 1999. [R]

Gerring, chapter 9.

Examples:

Marx, Anthony W. 1996. "Race-Making and the Nation-State." *World Politics* 48 (January):180-208. *Make a comparative table that summarizes the logic of the argument: scores on key explanatory, control and outcome variables.

Optional/suggested:

Lieberman, Evan. "Causal Inference in Historical Institutional Analysis: A Specification of Periodization Strategies." *Comparative Political Studies* 34, no. 9 (2001): 1011-35. [R]

Lieberson, Stanley, "Small N's and Big Conclusions: An Examination of the Reasoning in Comparative Studies Based on a Small Number of Cases," in Charles Ragin and Howard Becker (eds.), *What is a Case? Exploring the Foundations of Social Inquiry*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992, pp. 105-118. [R]

Grzymala-Busse, Anna. "Time Will Tell? Temporality and the Analysis of Causal Mechanisms," *Comparative Political Studies*, 2011.

Beck, Nathaniel. 2001. "Time-Series-Cross-Section Data: What Have We Learned in the Past Few Years?" *Annual Review of Political Science* 4:271-293.[R]

Lustick, I.S. "Taking Evolution Seriously: Historical Institutionalism and Evolutionary Theory." *Polity* 43, no. 2 (2011): 179-209.

Skocpol, Theda, and Margaret Somers. "The Uses of Comparative History in Macrosocial Inquiry." *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 22, no. 2 (1980): 174-97. [R]

Mahoney, James and Dietrich Rueschemeyer (eds.), *Comparative-Historical Analysis in the Social Sciences*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2002, chapter 12 (Skocpol) [B]

Seminar IX. Field work I – focus on interviews and immersion (April 11)

Elisabeth Wood. Field Methods. In Charles Boix and Susan Stokes (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics*. 2007. (in webspace)

Entire PS edition – December 2002 on Elite interviews (in webspace)

Fujii, L.A. 2010. "Shades of truth and lies: Interpreting testimonies of war and violence." *Journal of Peace Research* 47 (2):231-41. (in webspace)

Wedeen, Lisa. 2010. "Reflections on Ethnographic Work in Political Science." *Annual Review of Political Science* 13: 255-72. (in webspace)

Examples:

- Skim this in order to appreciate the methodological appendix: Laitin, D. (1985). *Hegemony and Religious Conflict: British Imperial Control and Political Cleavages in Yorubaland* in Evans, Peter, Dietrich Rueschemeyer, and Theda Skocpol, eds. *Bringing the state back in*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 285-316. [R]
- Laitin, D. (1986). *Hegemony and Culture: Politics and Religious Change Among the Yoruba*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, appendix. [R]

Further reading/optional:

- Aberbach, Joel D., James D. Chesney and Bert A. Rockman. 1975. "Exploring Elite Political Attitudes: Some Methodological Lessons." *Political Methodology* 2:1-27. [R]
- Edward Schatz, ed., *Political Ethnography: What Immersion Contributes to the Study of Power* (Chicago, 2009), chapter by Allina-Pisano
- Geertz, C. (1973). "Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture," In Geertz (Ed.), *The Interpretation of Cultures*. New York: Basic Books, 3-30. [R]
- Kvale, Steiner. 1996. *InterViews*. Thousand Oaks: Sage, Chapter 10. [R]
- Judd, Charles M., Eliot R. Smith and Louise H. Kidder. 1991. *Research Methods in Social Relations*. Orlando: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich., Chapter 11. [R]
- Barrett, Christopher B., and Jeffrey W. Cason. *Overseas Research : A Practical Guide*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997, pp.90-105. [R]
- Francis, Elizabeth. "Qualitative Research: Collecting Life Histories." In *Fieldwork in Developing Countries*, edited by Stephen Devereux and John Hoddinott; New York ; London: Harvester Wheatsheaf, 1992, pp.86-101. [R]
- Luker, Kristin. *Abortion and the Politics of Motherhood*. 1984. Berkeley, UC Press, appendix 1. [R]
- Patton, Michael Quinn. *Qualitative Evaluation and Research Methods*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage, 1990, pp.199-276.
- Sheila Carapico, Janine A. Clark, Amaney Jamal, David Romano, Jilian Schwedler, and Mark Tessler. *The Methodologies of Field Research in the Middle East*. PS: Political Science and Politics. Volume XXXIX, No. 3, July 2006.

Grant-writing strategies:

http://www.ssrc.org/programs/publications_editors/publications/art_of_writing_proposals_page

Developed by Adam Przeworski (Department of Political Science, New York University) and Frank Salomon (Department of Anthropology, University of Wisconsin) on behalf of the Social Sciences Research Council (SSRC).

Seminar X. Field work II – Project management; Experiments; other forms of observation (April 18)

Paluck, L. "The Promising Integration of Qualitative Methods and Field Experiments." *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 628, no. 1: 59.

Lieberman, Howard, Lynch in QualMeth Newsletter (in webspace)

Ben Read, Lauren Morris MacLean, and Melani Cammett, Symposium: Field Research: How Rich? How Thick? How Participatory? *Qualitative Methods* (Fall 2006) 4(2) 9-18.

Bamberger, Rao, Woolcock. "Using Mixed Methods in Monitoring and Evaluation: Experiences from International Development," World Bank Technical paper. (in webspace.)

Example:

Fenno, Richard F. *Home Style: House Members in Their Districts*. Boston: Little Brown, 1978, 249-293. [R]

Seminar XI. Archives, secondary sources, and other published materials (April 25)
-- Today's seminar will be held at the Seely Mudd library to meet with the University Archivist and Curator of Public Policy Papers, Daniel Linke

Cameron Thies, "A Pragmatic Guide to Qualitative Historical Analysis in the Study of International Relations," *International Studies Perspectives* 3(4) (November) 351-372 [R]

Judd, Charles M., Eliot R. Smith, and Louise H. Kidder. *Research Methods in Social Relations*. Orlando: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1991, pp.287-297. [R]

Hope M. Harrison, "Inside the SED Archives: A Researcher's Diary," *Cold War International History Project Bulletin* 2 (Fall 1992), 20, 28-32. [R]

Marc Trachtenberg, Chapter 5: Working with Documents in Marc Trachtenberg, *The Craft of International History: A Guide to Method*. Princeton, 2006.

Marc Trachtenberg, "De Gaulle, Moravcsik, and Europe," *Journal of Cold War Studies*, 2000, vol. 2, no. 3, pp. 101-116.

Seminar XII. Presenting qualitative research in written, oral form; New frontiers for qualitative methodology (May 2)

Most of this seminar will be dedicated to student presentations, but we will also discuss what makes for an effective presentation of qualitative research in oral presentation, paper and book form; and we will discuss areas for research in qualitative methodology.

In preparation for our meeting this week, please carefully review the examples from the course (and from other courses) in order to critically discuss these topics. More direction will be provided in advance of the seminar.