Prof. Andrej Krickovic

**Introduction to
Methods in International Relations**

**Description:** This course will introduce you to the methods used in International Realtions research.  We will begin by learning about the basic structure of causal analysis, with an emphasis on four basic research strategies: experimentation, “large N” quantitative studies, “small N” studies that use qualitative reasoning, and formal modeling.  The primary goals of this course are: (1) to provide you with analytic tools that will help you to critically evaluate social science research as well as causal arguments found in everyday life, and (2) to improve your ability to pose and answer research questions on their own.

**Readings:** Readings include selections from a textbook, political science articles that focus on methods or use a particular methodological approach, and articles from the popular press which illustrate some methodological challenges and pitfalls in causal reasoning that researchers often face.

***Textbook***: *Research Methods in Political Science: An Introduction*, by Michael Corbett and Michael K. Le Roy, 6th ed., 2005)

**Part 1: Fundamentals of Causation**

*Introduction and Overview*

• Corbett and Le Roy, pp. 1-5 (“Exploring the Data Files”) and pp. 67-70 “Intervening and Antecedent Variables”)
• J. David Singer, “The Levels of Analysis Problem in International Relations”.

*Criteria for Causality*

• Louise G. White, Political Analysis: Technique and Practice, 4th ed., pp. 126-30.
• Earl Babbie, The Practice of Social Research, pp. 72-77.
• Reuters, “Young Drinkers More Likely to Turn out Alcoholic,” January 15, 1998.
• Emma Schwartz and Brian Whelan, “Social Class May Influence Campus Life,” Daily Californian, September 24, 2002.

• Shiveley, pp. 72-76 AND pp. 91-93 (discussion on holding a variable constant).

*Assessing causation*

• Jon Elster, “Explaining Technical Change”

• Kevin Narizny, “Anglo-American Primacy and the Global Spread of Democracy: An International Genealogy”,World Politics, Volume 64, Number 2, April 2012, pp. 341-373

• David E. Sanger, “The Curse of the Dubya,” New York Times, September 15, 2002.

*Conceptualization and Measurement*

• Corbett and Le Roy, pp. 25-35.
• Johnson, Joslyn, and Reynolds. “Political Science Research Methods”, pp. 64-68 (“Defining Concepts”), pp. 73-75, pp. 84-95.
• John Horgan, “Your Analysis is Faulty,” New Republic, April 2, 1990.
• Terry Karl, “Imposing Consent,” pp. 9-13, 34-36 AND “Dilemmas of Democratization in Latin America,” pp. 163-65.

*Describing Data*

• Johnson & Joslyn (3rd edition of Political Science Research Methods), pp. 295-312 and pp. 327-334.
• Weinberg, Schumaker, and Oltman, Ch. 3 “Variability and Measures of Variability,” in Intuitive Statistics, pp. 28-34.
• Corbett and Le Roy, pp. 141-149 AND Chapter 9, pp. 161-169.

**Part 2: Experiments**
*Experimentation: An Introduction*

• Earl Babbie, Practice of Social Research, pp. 237-51.
• David Freedman et al.  Statistics, 2nd edition, pp. 3-18.

*Classic Experiments*

• Stanley Milgram, “Some Conditions of Obedience and Disobedience to Authority,” 57-76.

• Shanto Iyengar and Don Kinder.  Chapters 2 and 3 in *News That Matters*.

*Field Experiments -- Researching in the Real World and Ethical Considerations*

• Johnson and Joslyn, 3rd edition, pp. 128-33.
• Donald Green, Alan Gerber, and David Nickerson, “Getting Out the Youth Vote in Local Elections.”
• Lynnley Browning, “Professors Offer A Reality Check for Politicians,” New York Times.

  *Inference: How to Interpret Experimental Results*

• Shiveley, *Craft of Political Research*, pp. 133-42.
• Johnson and Joslyn, Political Science Research Methods, 3rd edition, pp. 343-46.

**Part 3: Large N Analysis**
*Sampling and Survey Research*

• David Moore, Statistics: Concepts and Controversies, 2nd ed., pp. 3-18.
• Corbett and Le Roy, Ch. 6., pp. 105-117.
• William Zimmerman, “The Russian People and Foreign Policy”

*Confidence Intervals and Significance Tests*

• Johnson, Joslyn, and Reynolds, 4th edition, pp. 197-210.

• Moore, Statistics: Concepts and Controversies, pp. 18-21, 189-195, 296-317, 322-27.
*Correlation and Regression*

• William Mendenhall, Beginning Statistics A to Z, pp. 280-97.
• Corbett and Le Roy, Chapter 10, pp. 186-191 (Section on “Measures of Association,” up to the subheading, “Ordinal Measures of Association”), Chapter 13

*Large N -- Innovative Applications*

• Steve Fish, “Islam and Large-Scale Political Violence: Is There a Connection?”

• Andrei Melville, A Political Atlas of the Modern World, chapters 1, 2,3

• Joanne Gowa, “Ballots and Bullets: The Elusive Democratic Peace”

**Part 4: Small N Analysis**
*The Comparative Research Strategy*

• Irving Copi, “Causal Connections and Mill’s Methods of Experimental Inquiry,” pp. 355-66 AND pp. 368-72.
• David Collier, “The Comparative Method,” in Ada Finifter (ed.), Political Science: The State of the Discipline.
• Henry Brady, “Appendix,” in Rethinking Social Inquiry.

• Jean Dreze and Amartya Sen, “China and India” Hunger and Public Action (Oxford: Clarendon Press), 1989, pp. 204-225.

Christopher Achen, and Duncan Snidal. 1989. “Rational Deterrence Theory and Comparative Case Studies.”

*Single Case Studies*

• Steven Levitsky, “Institutionalization and Personism: The Concept, the Case, and the Case for Unpacking the Concept” Party Politics 4 (1), 1998, pp. 77-92.

*Case-Selection in Small N Research*

• Barbara Geddes, “Paradigms and Sand Castles: Theory Building and Research

Design in Comparative Politics”

• Anna M. Grzymala-Busse, “Redeeming the Communist Past: The Regeneration of the Communist Successor Parties in East Central Europe”

• Rawi Abdelal, “National Purpose in the World Economy : Post-Soviet States in Comparative Perspective”

*Historical Analysis*

• Dietrich Rueschemeyer and John D. Stephens. “Comparing Historical Sequences: A Powerful Tool for Causal Analysis.”

• Theda Skocpol and Margaret Somers. 1980. “The Uses of Comparative History in Macrosocial Inquiry.”

• Peter Gourevitch, “Politics in hard Times: Comparative Responses to International Economic Crises

**Part 5: The Rational Choice Approach**
*The Spatial Model*

• Anthony Downs, “An Economic Theory of Democracy”, pp. 21-35, 114-132.
• Green and Shapiro, “Pathologies of Rational Choice Theory”, pp. 151-53.

*Game Theory Fundamentals*

•Avinash Dixit and Susan Skeath, “Games of Strategy”, (Norton, 1999), pp. 16-22, 24-32.

 Extensive Form Games

•Dixit and Skeath, pp. 43-53, 56-62.

*Simultaneous Move Games*

*•*Avinash Dixit and Susan Skeath, “Games of Strategy”, pp. 79-93, 97-99, 107-15.

*The Prisoners Dilemma*

•Robert Axelrod, “The Evolution of Cooperation”, (New York: Basic Books, 1984), pp. 3-12, 73-87.

•Robert Jervis, “Cooperation Under the Security Dilemma”

*Using Game Theory to Address Theoretical and Empirical Questions*

• Bruce Bueno De Mesquita, “Can Game Theory Predict When Iran Will Get the Bomb?”

•Robert Powell, “The Problem of Absolute and Relative Gains in International Relations Theory”

•Stephen Krasner, “Global Communications and National Power: Life on the Pareto Frontier”