

Contemporary Political Analysis

An Introduction to Qualitative Methods

Ted Hopf

Winter 2000

Mondays and Wednesdays, 330-515p

Political Science 768

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, Noon-115p

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THIS SYLLABUS IS PROVISIONAL, BUT HIGHLY SUGGESTIVE

PLEASE XEROX AND RETURN.

This course is an introduction to thinking about research techniques, methodology, and epistemology. It raises issues and questions that should be thought about *before* one chooses to execute a research design on some social phenomenon.

The course has three main parts. The first part asks questions about the foundations of mainstream social and political science. The second part introduces several qualitative approaches to the social world. These include interpretivism, constructivism, ethnography, narrativity, hermeneutics, and critical theory. This is a tasting menu of methods; no single approach will receive more than glancing treatment. But it should suffice to inform the third, and last, part of the course. In those weeks, the comparative case-study method is mastered and each student will be expected to apply both that method, and a combination of that method and some other qualitative method(s) to a research design derived from a list of texts.

Half the grade in the course is class participation. This involves making weekly presentations, analytical critiques, of selected readings and active contributions to discussions of readings presented by one's colleagues. The other half of the grade is derived from written exercises. The first are short critical essays on the readings; the second half is a longer paper due at the end of the term.

All readings are on reserve.

Books that you should purchase, and that have been ordered by the usual suspects:

Daniel Little, *Varieties of Social Explanation*

Alan F. Chalmers, *What is this thing called science?*

Gary King, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba, *Designing Social Inquiry*

E.H. Carr, *What is History?*

Thomas Kuhn, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*

Paul Feyerabend, *Against Method*

Paul Rabinow and William M. Sullivan, *Interpretive Social Science*

Max Horkheimer and Theodor Adorno, *Dialectic of Enlightenment*

Hubert Dreyfus and Paul Rabinow, *Michel Foucault: Beyond Structuralism and Hermeneutics*

Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish. Birth of the Prison*

January 3

Overview of coming attractions

Rethinking the Foundations of Social Science

The Destructive Powers of Theorization

January 5

Albert O. Hirschman, "The Search for Paradigms as a Hindrance to Understanding," *World Politics* 22:2 (April 1970), 329-43

Giovanni Sartori, "Concept Misformation in Comparative Politics," *APSR*, 64:4 (December 1970), 1033-53

E.H. Carr, *What is History?*, (Vintage 1961), 3-35 and 70-143

Daniel Little, *Varieties of Social Explanation* (Westview 1991), 1-67

Why We Ask the Kinds of Questions We Do

January 10

Robert Pahre, "Patterns of Knowledge Communities in the Social Sciences," *Library Trends* 45:2 (Fall 1996), 204-25

Margaret R. Somers, "Where is Sociology after the Historic Turn?," in Terrence J. McDonald, ed. *The Historic Turn in the Human Sciences* (Michigan 1996), 53-90

Edward W. Said, *Orientalism* (Vintage 1979), 284-328

E.H. Carr, *What is History?*, 36-69

Does the Validity of Our Assumptions Matter?

January 12

Milton Friedman, "The Methodology of Positive Economics," in *Essays in Positive Economics* (Chicago 1962), 3-43

Morris P. Fiorina, "Formal Models in Political Science," *AJPS*, 19:1 (February 1975), 133-59

Doug Dion, "The Robustness of the Structure-Induced Equilibrium," *AJPS*, 36:2 (May 1992), 462-83

Bruce Bueno de Mesquita and David Lalman, "Domestic Opposition and Foreign War," *APSR* 84:3 (September 1990), 747-65

How do We Know when One Theory is Better than Another?

January 17 and 19

Alan F. Chalmers, *What is this thing called science?* (Queensland 1976), 38-100

Karl Popper, *The Logic of Scientific Discovery* (Basic 1959), 15-42, 53-59, 68-70, 81-87, 97-113, 124-26, 189-205, 246-50, and 265-73

Thomas Kuhn, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions* (Chicago 1970) v-91 and 144-59

Paul Feyerabend, *Against Method*, 3d ed. (Verso 1993), 1-23, 54-76, 103-22, 147-58

Qualitative Approaches to the Social World

What's the Difference?

January 24

Gary King, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba, *Designing Social Inquiry* (Princeton 1994), 3-114

"The Qualitative-Quantitative Disputation," *APSR* 89:2 (June 1995), 454-81

Timothy J. McKeown, "Case Studies and the Statistical Worldview," *IO* 53:1 (Winter 1999), 161-90

Interpretivism

January 26 and 31

Paul Rabinow and William M. Sullivan, "The Interpretive Turn: A Second Look," in Rabinow and Sullivan, ed. *Interpretive Social Science* (California 1987), 1-30

Charles Taylor, "Interpretation and the Sciences of Man," in Rabinow and Sullivan, 33-81

Clifford Geertz, "Deep Play," in Rabinow and Sullivan, 195-240

Mikhail Bakhtin, "Language of the Marketplace" and "Rabelais's Images and His Time," in *Rabelais and his World* (MIT 1965), 145-95 and 437-74

Constructivism and Ethnography

February 2 and 7

Peter L. Berger and Thomas Luckmann, *The Social Construction of Reality* (Anchor 1966) ALL

Vincent Crapanzano, "Hermes's Dilemma: The Masking of Subversion in Ethnographic Description," in James Clifford and George E. Marcus, eds. *Writing Culture* (California 1986), 51-76

John C. Heritage, "Ethnomethodology," in Anthony Giddens and Jonathan Turner, eds. *Social Theory Today* (Stanford 1987), 224-72

Pierre Bourdieu, "Social Space and Symbolic Power," *Sociological Theory* 7:1 (1989), 14-25

Craig Calhoun, "Habitus, Field, and Capital," in *Critical Social Theory*, 132-61

Jeffrey C. Alexander, "The Reality of Reduction: The Failed Synthesis of Pierre Bourdieu," in Alexander, *Fin de Siecle Social Theory* (Verso 1995), 128-217

The Linguistic Turn: Narrativity and Hermeneutics

February 9

Hayden White, *Tropics of Discourse* (Hopkins 1978), 51-80

James Clifford, "On Ethnographic Allegory," in *Writing Culture*, 98-121

Susan Hekman, *Hermeneutics and the Sociology of Knowledge* (Polity 1986), 91-159, 200-19

(Mayb Richard J. Bernstein, *Beyond Objectivism and Relativism: Science, Hermeneutics, and Practice* (Penn 1983),

Critical Theory

February 14

Max Horkheimer and Theodor W. Adorno, *Dialectic of Enlightenment* (Continuum 1993/1944), 3-42

Craig Calhoun, "Rethinking Critical Theory," in *Critical Social Theory*, 1-42

Axel Honneth, "Critical Theory," in *Social Theory Today*, 347-82

Joan Acker, Kate Barry, and Johanna Esseveld, "Objectivity and Truth," in Mary Margaret Fonow and Judith A. Cook, eds. *Beyond Methodology* (Indiana 1991), 133-53

Seyla Benhabib, "Epistemologies of Postmodernism: A Rejoinder to Jean-Francois Lyotard," *New German Critique* 33:2 (Fall 1984), 103-26

Discursive Power

February 16, 21, and 23

Hubert L. Dreyfus and Paul Rabinow, *Michel Foucault. Beyond Structuralism and Hermeneutics* (Chicago 1983), 2d. ed., ALL

Michel Foucault, *Arachaeology of Knowledge and Discourse on Language*, (Pantheon 1972), 3-30, 215-37

Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish. The Birth of the Prison* (Vintage 1995), 2d. ed., ALL

Carol Cohn, "Sex and Death in the Rational World of Defense Intellectuals," *Signs* 12:4 (Summer 1987), 687-718

Applying Qualitative Methods in Conventional Social Science

Qualitative Comparative Case Studies

February 28 and March 1

Arend Lijphart, "Comparative Politics and the Comparative Method," *APSR* 65:3, (September 1971), 682-93

Adam Przeworski and Henry Teune, *The Logic of Comparative Social Inquiry*, (Wiley 1970), 3-46

David Collier, "The Comparative Method: Two Decades of Change," in Dankwart A. Rustow and Kenneth Paul Erickson, eds. *Comparative Political Dynamics*, (Harper Collins 1991), 7-31

Alexander L. George and Timothy J. McKeown, "Case Studies and Theories of Organizational Decision Making," in *Advances in Information Processing in Organizations*, Vol. 2, (JAI Press 1985), 21-58

Alexander L. George, "The Causal Nexus between Cognitive Beliefs and Decision-Making Behavior: The 'Operational Code' Belief System," in Leonard Falkowski, ed. *Psychological Models in International Politics* (Westview 1979), esp. 104-24

March 6-15

Choose one book from the following list, or suggest one to me, that you will read and critically analyze for class. Your analysis should consist of a critique of the author's use of the comparative case study method, and an imaginative application of qualitative methods to a reconfigured research design. Presentations of these books, and your analytical critiques, will occur over the balance of the classes remaining.

Helen Milner, *Resisting Protectionism*

Jack Snyder, *The Ideology of the Offensive*

Yuen Foong Khong, *Analogies at War*

Theda Skocpol, *States and Social Revolutions*

D. Michael Shafer, *Deadly Paradigms*

Peter Liberman, *Does Conquest Pay?*

Jack Snyder, *Myths of Empire*

Jonathan Mercer, *Reputation and International Politics*

Andrew Bennett, *Condemned to Repetition*