

## IN540 Research Methods in International Studies

Professor Hiroshi Nakazato

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Lecture Room: Carney 306

T/Th 12:00 noon-1:15 pm

### Course Description

This course is designed specifically for students in the Political Science and HCS tracks of the International Studies major. It lays the groundwork for understanding qualitative research methods in the social sciences.

Students interested in quantitative research methods are urged to take additional courses offered in other departments to augment the material covered here.

This course complements and supplements IN497 Senior Thesis, but the two courses are independent.

### Course Requirements

You are expected to attend and participate actively in the class, to have completed the readings before meetings, to submit written work on time, and to contribute ideas and suggestions in class discussions.

A substantial portion of a major research paper is a component of the course. You will be required to submit draft portions of the research during the semester, and a revised and polished version at the end.

Those students writing senior theses are encouraged to submit work for this course based on their thesis research. However, please note that the grade received on these portions of the thesis reflect the grading criteria of this course, and are in no way indicative of the overall quality or worth of the finished thesis. The grade received in this class is distinct from the grade for the finished thesis.

### Grading

The course grade is based on in-class exams and submitted written work. There is no final exam.

- 1) Two exams: 10% each (20% total)
- 2) Three short papers: 10% each (30% total)
- 3) Exercises: weight varies (25% total)
- 4) Research Paper: 25%

Please note that failure to complete any of the above requirements may result in a failing grade in the course. I will grant exceptions if you have a legitimate excuse. However, I must receive a letter from your class dean or academic advisor outlining the circumstances.

### Academic Integrity

For all written assignments, you must follow the guidelines set out in the paper topic. In particular, you *must* follow the rules regarding academic integrity. Asserted ignorance of those guidelines will not excuse any student who violates them. The penalty for plagiarism can include Failure in the course and a report placed in your permanent file with the university. The Boston College statement on academic integrity can be found at the following webpage:

<http://www.bc.edu/schools/cas/polisci/integrity.html>

### Texts for the Course:

The following required texts are available in the BC Bookstore. Class sessions will require that you have the readings with you for reference.

- 1) Wayne Booth, Gregory Colomb & Joseph Williams, *The Craft of Research*, 3rd ed.
- 2) Diana Ridley, *The Literature Review*

Additional readings will be made available through Blackboard. You should have the readings in each section completed before each session and bring them to class. Readings should be read in the order listed.

### Other Notes

Students must turn off all electronic devices not used directly in the course (e.g., pagers, cell phones, music players, etc.). Students may use notebook computers to take notes; permission must be sought to use other electronic devices, such as tape recorders or video cameras.

## *Schedule of Readings and Assignments*

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

#### Oct. 13: FIRST EXAM

Short answer – definitions

ID short passages – identify variables, identify causation, identify components of research

#### Nov. 10: SECOND EXAM

Short answer – definitions

ID short passages – identify and explain approaches

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

Sept. 8: Syllabus, course content and purpose

Booth, Colomb, and Williams, *The Craft of Research*, 3-25.

Sept. 10: The Ethics of Research

Booth, Colomb, and Williams, *The Craft of Research*, 273-276.

Paul Oliver, “Introduction: ethics and research,” in *The Student’s Guide to Research Ethics*, Maidenhead, UK: Open University Press, 2003: 3-25.

Excerpt from the independent report on Dr. Michael Bellesiles, Prof. of History at Emory, 1-19.

- The rationales for ethical research (paper 1) (10%)

### **II. THE LOGIC OF RESEARCH**

Sept. 15: The Literature Review, Part I: Why Do We Do It?

Gary King, Robert Keohane, and Sidney Verba, “The *Science* in Social Science,” in *Designing Social Inquiry*, Princeton, PA: Princeton UP, 1994: 3-33.

Ridley, *The Literature Review*, 1-28.

Sept. 17: The Literature Review, Part II: Finding the Literature

Booth, Colomb, and Williams, *The Craft of Research*, 35-101.

Ridley, *The Literature Review*, 29-43.

Sept. 22: The Literature Review, Part III: Organizing and Mapping Arguments

Ridley, *The Literature Review*, 44-59.

Booth, Colomb & Williams, *The Craft of Research*, 105-170.

- First exercise due: defining the research problem (check)

Sept. 24: The Literature Review, Part IV: Presenting the Material

Ridley, *The Literature Review*, 80-129.

R. Charli Carpenter, “Setting the Advocacy Agenda,” *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 51(1), March 2007: 99-120.

Stephen Van Evera, excerpt on Introductions, in *Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science*, Ithaca, NY: Cornell UP, 1997: 100-103.

### **III. THE LANGUAGE OF RESEARCH**

Sept. 29: Modeling the World

C. Lave & J. March, “An Introduction to Speculation” and “The Evaluation of Speculations,” in *An Introduction to Models in the Social Sciences*, reprint ed. Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 1993: 10-42, 52-78.

- Second exercise due: assemble initial literature summary (5%)

#### Oct. 1: Variables, Operationalization, and Validity

Stephen Van Evera, "Hypotheses, Laws, and Theories: A User's Guide," in *Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science*, Ithaca, NY: Cornell UP, 1997: 7-48.

David L. Richards and Ronald Gelleny, "Women's Status and Economic Globalization," *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 51(4), December 2007: 855-876.

#### Oct. 6: Causation, Part I

John Gerring, "Causation," in *Social Science Methodology: A Criterial Framework*, New York, NY: Cambridge UP, 2001: 128-151.

- Third exercise due: Identifying variables (5%)

#### Oct. 8: Causation, Part II

James Fearon, "Counterfactuals and Hypothesis Testing in Political Science," *World Politics*, Vol. 43(2), January 1991: 169-195.

Richard Ned Lebow, "Contingency, Catalysts, and International System Change," *Political Science Quarterly*, Vol. 115(4), Winter 2000: 591-616.

### **Oct. 13: First Midterm Exam**

#### **IV. GENERAL APPROACHES IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES**

#### Oct. 15: Forms of Explanation

Martin Hollis and Steve Smith, "Introduction: Two Traditions," in *Explaining and Understanding International Relations*, Oxford, UK: Clarendon Press, 1991: 1-15.

David Marsh and Paul Furlong, "A Skin not a Sweater," in David Marsh & Gerry Stoker, eds., *Theory and Methods in Political Science*, 2nd ed., Houndsmill, UK: Palgrave Macmillan, 2002: 17-41.

#### Oct. 20: Rational Choice

Hugh Ward, "Rational Choice," in David Marsh & Gerry Stoker, eds., *Theory and Methods in Political Science*, 2nd ed., Houndsmill, UK: Palgrave Macmillan, 2002: 65-89.

Will H. Moore and Stephen M. Shellman, "Whither Will They Go? A Global Study of Refugees' Destinations, 1965-1995," *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 51(4), December 2007: 811-834.

- Group discussion: identifying rational choice approaches (paper 2a) (10%)

#### Oct. 22: Interpretive Theory

Daniel Little, "Interpretation Theory," in *Varieties of Social Explanation: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Social Science*, Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1991: 68-87.

Ruth Benedict, "The Japanese Since VJ-Day," in *The Chrysanthemum and the Sword*, Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin, 1946: 297-316.

- Group discussion: identifying interpretive approaches (paper 2b) (10%)

#### Oct. 27: Functionalism and Structuralism

Daniel Little, "Functional and Structural Explanation," in *Varieties of Social Explanation: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Social Science*, Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1991: 91-113.

Keith Thomas, *Religion and the Decline of Magic*, London, UK: Penguin, 1991: 767-800.

Steven Reed, *Making Common Sense of Japan*, Pittsburgh, PA: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1993: 25-76.

- Group discussion: identifying functional and structural approaches

#### Oct. 29: Institutional and Organizational Theories

Vivien Lowndes, "Institutionalism," in David Marsh & Gerry Stoker, eds., *Theory and Methods in Political Science*, 2nd ed., Houndsmill, UK: Palgrave Macmillan, 2002: 90-108.

- Graham Allison & Philip Zelikow, "Model II: Organizational Behavior," *Essence of Decision*, 2nd ed., New York, NY: Longman, 1999: 143-196.
- Peter M. Haas, "Do Regimes Matter? Epistemic Communities and Mediterranean Pollution Control," in George Crane & Abba Amawi, eds., *The Theoretical Evolution of International Political Economy: A Reader*, 2nd ed., New York, NY: Oxford UP, 1997: 284-298.
- Andrew F. Krepinevich, Jr. "Brushfires on a Cold Dawn," in *The Army and Vietnam*, Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins UP, 1986: 3-26.

- Group discussion: identifying institutional and organizational approaches (paper 3a) (10%)

#### Nov. 3: Feminism and other Critical Studies

- Sandra Harding, "Introduction: Is There a Feminist Method?" in Sandra Harding, ed., *Feminism & Methodology*, Bloomington, IN: Indiana UP, 1987: 1-14.
- Laurence Parker & Lorna Roberts, "Critical Theories of Race," in Bridget Somekh & Cathy Lewin, eds., *Research Methods in the Social Sciences*, London, UK: Sage Publishing, 2005: 74-80.
- Gloria Filax, Dennis Sumara, Brent Davis & Debra Shogan, "Queer Theory/Lesbian and Gay Approaches," in Bridget Somekh & Cathy Lewin, eds., *Research Methods in the Social Sciences*, London, UK: Sage Publishing, 2005: 81-88.
- Jane S. Jaquette, "Gender and Justice in Economic Development," in Irene Tinker, ed., *Persistent Inequalities*, New York, NY: Oxford UP: 1990: 54-69.
- Carol Cohn, "A Feminist Spy in the House of Death," in Eva Isaksson, ed., *Women and the Military System*, New York, NY: St. Martin's Press, 1988: 288-317.

- Group discussion: identifying feminist approaches (paper 3b) (10%)

#### Nov. 5: Normative and Postmodernist Approaches

- Mats Alvesson, "Key themes in postmodernism," in *Postmodernism and Social Research*, Buckingham, UK: Open University Press, 2002: 47-62.
- R.B.J. Walker, "The territorial state and the theme of Gulliver," in *Inside/outside: international relations as political theory*, Cambridge, UK: Cambridge UP, 1993: 125-140.

- Group discussion: identifying postmodern approaches

### **Nov. 10: Second Midterm Exam**

#### **IV. THE PRACTICE OF RESEARCH**

##### Nov. 12: Case Studies, Part I

- Andrew Bennett, "Case Study Methods: Design, Use, and Comparative Advantages," in Sprinz & Wolinsky-Nahmias, eds., *Models, Numbers & Cases: Methods for Studying International Relations*, Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press, 2004: 19-55.

##### Nov. 17: Comparative Methodology

- Peter Burnham, Karin Gilland, Wyn Grant, and Zig Layton-Henry, "Comparative Methodology," in *Research Methods in Politics*, Houndsmill, UK: Palgrave Macmillan, 2004: 58-79.
- Paul Pennings, Hans Keman and Jan Kleinnijenhuis, "The Art of Comparing: Developing a Research Design," in *Doing Research in Political Science: an introduction to comparative methods and statistics*, London, UK: SAGE Publications, 1999: 41-70.

- Fourth exercise due: literature review (10%)

##### Nov. 19: Case Studies, Part II

- James A. Piazza, "Incubators of Terror: Do Failed and Failing States Promote Transnational Terrorism?" *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 52(3), Sept. 2008: 469-488.
- Uriel Abulof, "'Small Peoples': The Existential Uncertainty of Ethnonational Communities," *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 53(1), March 2009: 227-248.

Zheng Wang, "National Humiliation, History Education, and the Politics of Historical Memory: Patriotic Education Campaign in China," *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 52(2), June 2008: 783-806.

Molly Cochran, "Charting the Ethics of the English School: What 'Good' is There in a Middle-Ground Ethics?" *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 53(1), March 2009: 203-225.

Eugene Gholz, "The Curtiss-Wright Corporation and Cold War-Era Defense Procurement," *Journal of Cold War Studies*, Vol. 2(1), Winter 2000: 35-75.

#### Nov. 24: Interviewing and Content Analysis

Jarol B. Manheim & Richard C. Rich, "Interviewing," in *Empirical Political Analysis: Research Methods in Political Science*, 4th ed., New York, NY: Longman Publishers, 1995: 155-170.

Paul S. Gray, John B. Williamson, David A. Karp & John R. Dalphin, "Content Analysis," in *The Research Imagination: An Introduction to Qualitative and Quantitative Methods*, Cambridge, UK: Cambridge UP, 2007: 283-303.

Kelly Kollman, "Same-Sex Unions: The Globalization of an Idea," *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 51(2), June 2007: 329-357.

#### Nov. 26: Thanksgiving – no classes

#### Dec. 1: Research Design – Putting it all together

John Gerring, "Research Design: General Criteria," in *Social Science Methodology*, Cambridge, UK: Cambridge UP, 2001: 155-199.

W. Phillips Shively, "Causal Thinking and the Design of Research," in *The Craft of Political Research*, 5th ed., Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2002: 72-94.

### **V. WRITING AND RHETORIC**

#### Dec. 3: Academese and Jargon, Author and Voice

Howard S. Becker, "Persona and Authority" in *Writing for Social Scientists*, Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 1986: 26-42.

Ridley, *The Literature Review*, 131-159.

Booth, Colomb and Williams, *The Craft of Research*: 173-212.

#### Dec. 8: The Art of Writing, Copy-editing, and Re-writing

Booth, Colomb and Williams, *The Craft of Research*: 249-269.

- Fifth exercise due: preliminary research design (5%)

#### Dec. 10: Conclusion

No assigned readings

**Research Paper due on scheduled final date** – Thursday, Dec. 17, 2009