

POP77011: Research Design for the Social Sciences

Michelman Term 2025

Day and Time: TBD

Room: TBD

Lecturer: Dr. Asli Ceren Cinar

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Office hours: TBD

Office: TBD

Module Description

This module offers an introduction to the scientific inquiry of the social world. Students will learn how to identify compelling research questions and to how to design a study that contributes to existing scholarship. We will cover the core elements of research design and discuss various methodological approaches used in contemporary social science research. The emphasis of the module will be on developing novel, falsifiable and empirically testable explanations of social phenomena.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this module, students are expected to:

1. Gain a better understanding of the research process and challenges associated with conducting social science research.
2. Be familiar with various research methods.
3. Learn how to formulate research questions and hypotheses, and choose appropriate research design and data sources to test their hypotheses.
4. Develop skills essential to conduct high-quality research in the field of social sciences.

Key Readings

Details of readings for individual topics will be given separately. The following items will occur on the reading for specific topics or are of general relevance and usefulness.

Toshkov, D. (2016). Research design in political science. Macmillan International Higher Education.

Gerring, J., 2012. Social science methodology: A unified framework. Cambridge University Press.

Geddes, B., 2003. Paradigms and sand castles: Theory building and research design in comparative politics. University of Michigan Press.

Kellstedt, P.M. and Whitten, G.D. (2018). The Fundamentals of Political Science Research. Cambridge University Press. (Chapters 1-2)

Assessments

10% Participation

5% Research Question

10% Literature Review

15% Empirical Strategy

60% Final Proposal