Social Science for a Globalized World
PLSC S348
May 27-June 28, 2019

Instructors of Record:
Trisha Craig, Yale-NUS, and Frances Rosenbluth, Yale University

Course Description: The increasingly integrated and globalized world has seen rapid economic growth and development but also greater volatility and geo-political uncertainty. Tackling global problems requires skills and strategies; this course provides students with the social science principles with which to understand national and global markets, the domestic and international uses of political power, and how these forces together shape the prospects and place in the world of nations and regions, with a particular emphasis on Asia. Through a series of dinners, students are introduced to practitioners from the worlds of policy, media and development whose work illustrates the application of concepts under discussion. Tool-building workshops allow students to delve more deeply into the skills needed to bring social science approaches and methods to real-world problems.

Goals of the Course: Students will develop analytical and methodological skills with which to design a research project (for future execution), while strengthening abilities in writing, speaking, and teamwork.

Questions we will explore include the following:

- What are the principles with which we should judge government performance?
- What kinds of governments grow faster and why?
- What kinds of development strategies are the most effective, under what conditions?
- How do we know when a causal argument is true or false?
- What are good guidelines for undertaking theoretically-grounded empirical research?
- How do economic efficiency and military power shape the global environment?

Learning Outcomes: By the end of the course students should be able to:

- Understand competing claims about political accountability;
- Grasp the micro-economic underpinnings of development;
- Know core arguments about democracy and development;
- Distinguish among types of constitutional design;
- Evaluate competing theories of foreign policy;
- Write compelling critiques of flawed arguments;
- Develop and defend sound arguments;
- Understand and propose research methods appropriate to a specific question of the student’s choice.
Course Assignments: Your grade will be based on the following work:

1. Three short written assignments of 6-8 double-spaced pages each develop your ability to make and defend causal claims, such as the one you will be making in your final paper.
   a. Paper #1, due on Monday morning of Week 2, considers ways to address common methodological flaws on a topic of your interest. (15% of your grade)
   b. Paper #2, due on Monday morning of Week 3, is a research proposal for your final project. What is your hypothesis? What is your research design? What evidence will help you adjudicate among competing hypotheses? (15% of your grade)
   c. Paper #3, due on Monday morning of Week 4, addresses an argument about uses or abuses of domestic political power and/or the constraining features of the global order. (15% of your grade).

2. Your final research paper, 15-20 double spaced pages, is due on the last day of class. (45% of your grade) You may change your topic from the one you propose in your research proposal with permission from the instructors.

3. Regular, active participation in class and in daily section meetings. (10% of your grade)

4. No final exam.

Readings: All readings for the course are available on Canvas or online as indicated in the syllabus.

Policies:
- Students are expected to attend every class session, do all of the reading before class, and come prepared to discuss.
- Laptops or other devices are not to be used in class, except when indicated for in-class exercises.
- Give appropriate attribution for all ideas not your own. Plagiarism is a serious matter and will be discussed in our first class. For more information, you are also encouraged to visit the Writing Center Web site, http://ctl.yale.edu/writing/wr-instructor-resources/addressing-academic-integrity-and-plagiarism.
- Late papers will be docked half a grade for every day past the due date.
Course Schedule:

**Week 1. Foundations: Social Science Reasoning and Methods for Empirical Work**

**Monday:** Orientation and Course Overview

**Tuesday:** Professor Olle Folke: Core Elements of Good Research Design

**Readings:**

**Wednesday:** Professor Olle Folke: Basics of Regression Analysis

**Readings:**

**Thursday:** Professor Olle Folke: Regression Discontinuity Design

**Readings:**

**Thursday:** Dinner with Practitioner (Guest TBD)

**Friday:** Tools Building Workshop #1, How to spot poor arguments and how to deploy empirical evidence to advance good ones.

**Week 2. Microeconomic Principles and Tools**

**Monday:** Professor Oliver Azuara, Fundamentals of Labor Markets.

**Readings:**

**Assignment:** First written assignment due before class.
**Tuesday:** Professor Oliver Azuara, Fundamentals of Labor Markets 2.

**Readings:**

**Wednesday:** Professor Ana de la O, Micro-foundations of Poverty Alleviation: Human Capital Investment

**Readings:**

**Thursday:** Professor Ana de la O, Micro-foundations of Poverty Alleviation II: Microfinance, Microinsurance and Multifaceted Programs

**Readings:**

**Thursday:** Dinner with Practitioner (Guest TBD)

**Friday:** Tools Building Workshop, How to conduct social science research.

**Week 3. Comparative and International Political Economy**

**Monday:** Professor Frances Rosenbluth, Comparative Political Economy.

**Readings:**

**Tuesday:** Professor Didac Queralt, The Domestic Politics of International Economic Integration.

**Readings:**

**Wednesday:** Professor Didac Queralt, The Political Economy of International Finance

**Readings:**

**Thursday:** Professor Trisha Craig, Global Populism

**Readings:**

**Thursday:** Dinner with Practitioner (Guest TBD)

**Friday:** Tools Building Workshop, Social science writing.

**Week 4. International Relations**

**Monday:** Professor Ian Shapiro: Responsibility to Protect.

**Readings**

**Assignment:** Paper #2 due before class.

**Tuesday:** Professor Ian Shapiro: Judging Criteria for International Intervention.

**Readings**
Wednesday: Professor Tyler Pratt, International Cooperation

Readings:


Thursday: Professor Tyler Pratt, International Regimes

Readings:


Thursday: Dinner with Practitioner (Guest TBD)

Friday: Tools Building Workshop: Refining your research design.

Week 5. Asia in the World


Readings:


Assignment: Research design due before class.

Tuesday: Professor Rohan Mukherjee, *China, India, and International Order*.

Readings:

**Wednesday:** Professor Nuno Monteiro, The Geopolitics of East Asia

**Readings:**

**Thursday:** Professor Daniel Mattingly, The Future of China in the World

**Readings:**

**Friday:** Research papers due at 5:00 p.m.