CDSS Core Course:
Methods of Social Sciences
(Fall 2007)

Lecture series by CDSS Faculty and Thomas Gschwend
(organized by Thomas Gschwend)

Tuesday (weekly): 13:45-15:15
Seminar room: A5,6 B318

Description: This interdisciplinary lecture course provides an overview on current methods in the Social and Behavioral Sciences. The first six weeks faculty members will present in a lecture (one hour) modern methods of social and behavioral research. Students discuss the lecture and readings with the lecturer during the remaining time (30 minutes). The remaining seven weeks are more like a workshop, where students are introduced to more specialized methods especially relevant for their own work. There will be potentially two lists of readings provided every week: required readings for all CDSS students that provide introductory level articles or textbook chapters; an additional advanced reading list will provide students who are planning to apply a particular method with more detailed information about it. The reading list will be available on CDSS web pages.

PART ONE: VARIETIES OF METHODS
(CDSS Faculty)

04.09.: Introductory Session (Thomas Gschwend)
11.09.: Comparative Methods: Between small and large N (Bernhard Ebbinghaus)
18.09.: Qualitative Methods: Case studies (Berthold Rittberger)
25.09.: Quantifying Legislative Analysis (Thomas König)
02.10.: An introduction to meta-analysis, a tool to synthesize quantitative empirical research (Werner Wittmann)
09.10.: Longitudinal Data Analysis (Josef Brüderl)
16.10.: Multinomial modeling in the social, behavioral, and biomedical sciences (Edgar Erdfelder)

PART TWO: METHOD WORKSHOP
(Thomas Gschwend)

Topics and Readings: TBA
PART ONE: VARIETIES OF METHODS
(CDSS Faculty)

04.09.: Introductory Session (Thomas Gschwend)

11.09.: Comparative Methods: Between small and large N (Bernhard Ebbinghaus)
Required readings:
Advanced readings:

18.09.: Qualitative Methods: Case studies (Berthold Rittberger)
Required readings
Advanced readings
• James Mahoney (2007): ‘Qualitative Methodology and Comparative Politics’, *Comparative Political Studies* 40, 2: 122-144.
• Bennett, Andrew and Colin Elman (2007): ‘Case Study Methods in the International Relations Subfield’, *Comparative Political Studies* 40, 2: 170-195

**25.09.: Quantifying Legislative Analysis (Thomas König)**

*Required readings*

*Advanced readings*

**02.10.: An introduction to meta-analysis, a tool to synthesize quantitative empirical research (Werner Wittmann)**

*Required readings*

*Advanced readings*

**09.10.: Longitudinal Data Analysis (Josef Brüderl)**

*Required readings*

*Advanced readings*
Multinomial modeling in the social, behavioral, and biomedical sciences

(Edgar Erdfelder)

Required Readings:

Optional readings (recommended for those familiar with German):

Advanced Readings:
PART TWO: METHOD WORKSHOP
(Thomas Gschwend)

(Thomas Gschwend)
Readings: TBA

Requirements: The requirements for this course are simple – prepare the readings in advance so that you can come to class with particular questions in mind. You will learn primarily by reading and then discussing that material with your instructor and classmates. The more active you participate in the discussions the easier it will be to comprehend the new material and the more fun we will have working on this together. Besides reading and discussing the material, usually the best way to learn new methods is by using them. Therefore I expect you to write a research paper in journal article style through which you can demonstrate your competence in rigorously applying at least one method that was taken up in this course. The paper should be in the format of a journal article. (That is, fully ready to be sent for submission, needing only a cover letter) Because this is a methods course, it will often make sense to choose a project that is ongoing in another course or even a paper already written which could use a methodologically sophisticated reanalysis. It should be written exactly as it would be for journal submission. That entails two things in particular, (1) that it be written for a journal audience and not for the professor of a methods course, and (2) that it not concentrate unduly on methodological issues. The burden of (1) is to explain what needs to be explained to a professional audience in your field and to decide what is not needed, often a pretty tough call. On (2) I recommend a relatively low tech paper, which often will display little explicit knowledge about the methods you employ, while you might want to add a technical appendix full of geek talk to impress the professor. The purpose, of course, is that journal readers will not want to read an excess of geek talk just because you need to prove in such an appendix that you can speak it (a lesson usually learned after several painful rejections). If you lack a substantive paper on which you wish to work, you might start out with a replication analysis of a recent paper that caught your interest and potentially fit your research program.

The paper together with a self-explainable documentation that allows me to easily replicate your analysis is due on January 15, 2008.

23.10.: How to talk to Grandpa about it: Substantive Interpretation of Statistical Results

30.10.: Stata Lab Session on Substantive Interpretation of Statistical Results
6.11.: Improving Interpretation: Graphs vs. Tables?

13.11.: Interpreting Interaction Effects

20.11.: Stata Lab Session on Interpreting Interaction Effects
- TBA

27.11.: no class (will meet on the 29th instead)

29.11.: Cognitive Psychometrics: Combining Two Psychological Traditions
Guest Lecture: Prof. William H. Batchelder, UC Irvine
Note: We will meet 18:00-19.30 at room No. EO 150 (Castle Ehrenhof East)

04.12.: Replication, Publication and Semester Wrap-Up