

POL CAL C ENCE ↵ COPE OF POL CAL C ENCE

THE CLASS MEETS ON Tuesday 12:30 - 15:15, Harkness 329

<u>Week</u>	<u>Discussion Theme</u>	<u>Readings</u>
Sept.4	Class organization and introductions.	Syllabus.
Sept.11	Political Science Research: Intuitive Standards of Evaluation	Choose one article published in the <i>APSR</i> in 1996-2006. Be prepared to present the contents and to discuss its strengths and weaknesses as political science. Riker, "The Two-Party System," <i>APSR</i> , Dec. 1982. 753-766.
Sept.18	Scientific Knowledge and Scientific Progress	Hempel, <u>Philosophy of Natural Science</u> 1966, All, esp. Ch.1-6. Kuhn, <u>Structure of Scientific Revolutions</u> , 2nd, 1970, Ch.1-8
Sept.25	Scientific Knowledge and Scientific Progress	Kuhn, Ch. 9-13 & Postscript. Imre Lakatos, "Falsification..." in <u>The Methodology of Scientific Research Programmes</u> pp. 8-52, 86-101; also 103-108. Kevin Clarke, "The Necessity of Being Comparative," <i>Comparative Political Studies</i> July 2007 886-908
Oct. 2	Explanation in Social Science	Little, <u>Varieties of Social Explanation</u> 1991, Ch. 1-4. Clifford Geertz, "Thick Description," Ch. 1 in <u>The Interpretation of Cultures</u> , 1973. Scott, <u>Weapons of the Weak</u> , 1985, esp. Ch. 1 and 2.
Oct. 9	Methods of Explanation	Little, <u>Varieties</u> , Ch. 5-7,9-11. Esp. Ch. 6, 7, 11.

AL O ODAY

F R A GNMEN D E Consider arguments about progress in and explanation in social and natural sciences applied to your APSR article. Keep in mind at least the two possible viewpoints: Hempel(& Little) v. Geertz (and Scott?) Maximum 5 pages, double spaced, with decent margins.

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- Oct. 16 Example I: International Relations and Political Crises. Allison, "Conceptual Models," *APSR*, Sept. 1969; and Essence of Decision, 1971, Ch. 2, 4.
Bendor & Hammond, "Rethinking Allison's Models" *APSR*, June 92.
Signorino, *APSR*, 1999, 279-98.
- Oct. 23 Example II: Collective Action and The Study of Groups Olson, Logic of Collective 1965, esp. Ch. I, II, V, VI, Appendix
King and Walker, *Journal of Politics*, May 1992: 394-426.
- Oct. 30 **Final EXAM**: Applying the philosophy of science questions to political science research.
- Nov. 6 No class meeting this week.
- Nov. 13 Problems of Inference and Causality King, Keohane & Verba, Designing

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