COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course aims to provide you with a general road map of the scientific study of social inquiry. To that end, I have the following main goals in this course. First, we will focus on establishing the central role of causal explanation in social science. It is important to understand that any substantive research, whether it uses mathematical modeling, quantitative analysis, or qualitative studies, remains incomplete unless it is grounded in a sound theoretical understanding of causation and other related concepts. Second, we will focus on qualitative research methods. We will also review and critique some of the social science works that use these methods.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
Grading will be based on the following:

- **Track 1:**
  - Midterm and final exams (40% each): The exams will be given on Apr 23 and Jun 11. Make-up exams will only be given if you have a documented emergency.
  - A group presentation (20%): For the presentation, each group will (1) make a 30-45 minute presentation and lead a discussion for the assigned article; and (2) provide the entire class with summary and critique of main arguments developed in the readings (Note: maximum five pages). That is, each group should upload both summary and presentation slides using EKU at least one day prior to the presentation. Detailed formats for the presentation and discussion will be discussed later. The goal of the group presentations is to facilitate class discussions and help you and your classmates to prepare for readings-based questions on exams. Grades will be based on the accuracy of your summary as well as the organization and clarity of your presentation.

- **Track 2:**
- Midterm exam (40%): The exam will be given on Apr 23. Make-up exams will only be given if you have a documented emergency.
- Research design proposal (5%), Proposal Presentation (5%), Final paper using qualitative methods (30%). Details will be discussed in class.
- A group presentation (20% each): Same as Track 1.

COURSE POLICIES:

- Excused Absence For Scheduled Exams Or Other Assignments:
  A student cannot receive a passing grade if s/he has not taken all exams. I will work with you if you have a learning disability, family emergency, become ill, must observe a religious holiday, etc. In general, I expect at least two weeks advance notification that you will miss an assignment or exam. You must arrange with me to make up the work in a timely manner. If you are physically unable to contact me in advance (e.g., if you wake up extremely ill), you must contact me (via email or phone) as soon as possible and then bring the original form of verification from a physician. I do not accept Xeroxed copies of medical excuses. Failure to complete an assignment or take an exam without appropriately notifying me will result in zero credit for that assignment or exam.

- Course Materials/Copyright and Plagiarism Statements; Academic Dishonesty:
  Instances of scholastic dishonesty will be treated seriously. Please inform yourself about the rules regarding cheating, plagiarism, fabrication of information, and conspiracy. The handouts used in this course are copyrighted. By “handouts,” I mean all materials generated for this class, which include but are not limited to syllabi, quizzes, exams, in-class materials review sheets, and additional problem sets. Because these are copyrighted, you do not have the right to copy the handouts, unless I expressly grant permission. As commonly defined, plagiarism consists of passing off as one’s own the ideas, words, writings, etc., authored by someone else. In accordance with the definition, you are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own, even if you should have the permission of the person. Plagiarism is one of the worst academic sins, for the plagiarist destroys the trust among colleagues without which research cannot be safely communicated.

- Grade Disclosure:
  To protect all personal information concerning students’ performance in this course, no grades or status information are allowed to be provided to students by telephone or email.

- Grade Scales:
  The grading scale will be the standard point scale:
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>95–100</td>
<td>A+</td>
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<tr>
<td>90–94</td>
<td>A</td>
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<td>85–89</td>
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<td>80–84</td>
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<td>75–79</td>
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<td>70–74</td>
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<td>60–69</td>
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<td>0–59</td>
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- **Grade Appeals:**
  Students who believe they have received an incorrect exam grade should formally appeal it to me. The appeal should consist of a single typed page that identifies the problem and presents concrete reasoning to substantiate why the exam should be re-evaluated. Note that a request for re-evaluation means that I will examine your entire exam for a second time and may lower your grade upon closer examination of your work.

- **Tentative Course Schedule:**
  The following list of readings and the dates of the exams are subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class.

**READINGS:**

**Required texts:**


**Recommended texts:**

- King Gary, Robert Keohane, and Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton. [Note: This text will henceforth be referred to as KKV, as in the authors’ last names.]
The readings for the first four weeks are available at the Hyundai bookstore. However, the three required books are NOT currently available at the KU bookstore, so students should buy them online (or from other book stores). Other professional articles not included in these books can be found on the web through JSTOR, ProQuest, and Wilson.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

I. The Basics

Week 1: Course Introduction

- Mar 5: Course Introduction

Week 2: Scientific Explanation

- Mar 12: Scientific Explanation
  - Kellstedt and Whitten. Ch 1.
  - Little. Ch 1.
  - Pollock (Essentials). Introduction, Ch 3.

Week 3: Theory and Causality

- Mar 19: Understanding Causality
  - Little. Ch 2 (and 3–4 if interested)

Week 4: Concepts, Measurement, and Hypothesis

- Mar 26: Concepts, Measurement, and Hypothesis
  - Pollock (Essentials). Ch 1–3, 5.
  - International Studies Association
Week 5: Research Design

- Apr 2: Research Design and Controlling for the 3rd variable
  - Pollock (Essentials). Ch 4.

Week 6–7: Research Design Examples


- Apr 16: Taehee Whang’s Research on Audience Costs: Selection Bias and Strategic Interactions

OR

Week 6–7: Research Design Proposal Presentations

- Apr 9-16: Presentations (only for those who choose track 2).
  - Research Design Proposal due on Apr 8. Upload to EKU by 5pm.

Week 8: Midterm Exam

- Apr 23: Midterm Exam (in-class).
II. Qualitative Research Methods

Week 9–10: How to Conduct Qualitative Research

- Apr 30–May 7: Theory Development and Testing
  - Van Evera. *the entire book.*
  - KKV Ch 1–3.
  - George and Bennett.

Week 11: GSIS Master of Arts Thesis Examples

- May 14: Presentation 1
  - Sung, Yoo-Jeo. 2014. Korean ODA for Technical Vocational Education & Training (TVET) to Latin America: Suggestions for Public-Private Partnerships (PPP)

Week 12: Qualitative Research Examples 1: Audience Costs

- May 21: Presentation 2 (Peer-reviewed Journal Articles)

Week 13: Qualitative Research Example 2: Democratic Peace

- May 28: Presentation 3

**Week 14: Qualitative Research Example 3: Transitology**

- Jun 4: Presentation 4

**Week 15: Final Exam**

- June 11: Final Exam

- *Final paper due on Jun 10. Upload to EKU by 5pm.*