

**POL 608: QUALITATIVE METHODS**

Fall 2021

Tuesdays, 1:30 - 4:20pm, Stanley Coulter Goo2

**Professor Swati Srivastava** (pronounced Shri-VAS-tuv)

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Office: BRNG 2258

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 10 am – 12 pm on Zoom (Sign-up link and Zoom link on Brightspace)

**Course Description**

This graduate course is an introduction to the use of qualitative methods in political science. The course will consider the distinctive issues of research design for qualitative research as well as the trade-offs involved in choosing one approach, method, technique, or type of evidence over another. We will cover inferences, concept formation, and case selection as matters of research design; archival research, interviews, and participant observation as modes of data collection; different kinds of content analysis and case writing as methods of data analysis; and process tracing, cross-case analysis, shadow cases, and counterfactuals as strategies for argument validation in qualitative approaches.

**Learning Outcomes**

At the conclusion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Synthesize major insights from qualitative research;
2. Generate and analyze data from leading qualitative approaches; and
3. Produce a research proposal using qualitative methods.

**Required Texts**

All readings will be available on Brightspace or via the Purdue Library.

**Course Requirements**

Participation:	35%
<i>Class discussion:</i>	15% (every class)
<i>Weekly posts:</i>	15% (every class)
<i>Final presentation:</i>	5% (week 16)
Short Papers:	65%
<i>Create Concept:</i>	10% (3 pages, due Friday, Sept 24, week 5)
<i>Generate Data:</i>	15% (4 pages, due Friday, Oct 22, week 9)
<i>Analyze Data:</i>	15% (5 pages, due Friday, Nov 19, week 13)
<i>Research Proposal:</i>	25% (8 pages, due Friday, Dec 17, finals week)

## Assignments

### *Class discussion:*

The course will be driven by discussions rather than lectures. I expect you to attend all classes and participate thoughtfully and consistently. Come well-prepared: keep up with the readings, bring a readily accessible copy to class (preferably hard copy), and contribute to the conversation.

### *Weekly posts:*

You will post brief reading responses on Brightspace before 10 am the day of our class. The post should be about 200 words and pose a question and response on any aspect of any reading(s) for that week. I will use these posts to guide our class discussion so be ready to elaborate on your points. I will drop your lowest score of the reading responses.

### *Short Papers:*

The papers are designed to reflect the process where you create a concept, generate data related to the concept, analyze generated data, and produce a research proposal. Papers 1-3 are due on Friday of the week assigned, before midnight. The final short paper ("Research proposal") is due on 12/17 by 12 pm. More instructions will be available closer to the assignments.

### *Final presentation:*

You will present a brief overview of your research proposal in class followed by a Q&A. More instructions will follow.

## Grading

Guidelines for grading correspond to student performance where,

- A — Outstanding achievement
- B — Very good, commendable achievement
- C — Satisfactory achievement
- D — Minimum performance
- F — Failure without credit

Letter grades will be determined as follows:

A = 100 - 93%	B+ = 89.5 - 87.5%	C+ = 79.5 - 77.5%	D+ = 69.5 - 67.5%
A - = 92.5 - 90%	B = 87 - 83%	C = 77 - 73%	D = 67 - 60%
	B- = 82.5 - 80%	C- = 72.5 - 70%	F = 59.5% and below

### Policies

1. No use of cellphones in class. Limited use of laptops/tablets to access course material and take notes.
2. I will do my best to respond within 24 hours to your emails, except after 6 pm and on weekends. If you do not hear from me, feel free to check in.
3. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability, you are welcome to let me know so that we can discuss options. You are also encouraged to contact the Disability Resource Center at [drc@purdue.edu](mailto:drc@purdue.edu) or 765-494-1247.
4. Thoroughly cite all paraphrased and quoted material in your weekly posts and short papers. You are responsible for knowing Purdue's policy regarding [academic integrity](#).
5. Be mindful of Purdue's [honor pledge](#) and give others the same respect you would like to receive in our classroom.
6. The syllabus is subject to change with fair notice.

### *Attendance*

Attendance will be taken for each class. You are allowed to miss one class unexcused. Under academic regulations, excused absences may be granted for cases of grief/bereavement, military service, jury duty, and parenting leave. If other situations arise that affect your attendance in a prolonged manner, we can explore options to get you on track.

When absences can be anticipated, such as for many University-sponsored activities and religious observations, you should inform me in advance. For unanticipated or emergency conflict, when advance notification is not possible, you should contact me as soon as possible. You may also contact the Office of the Dean of Students via [email](#) or phone at 765-494-1747.

### *COVID-19*

If you have symptoms associated with COVID-19, you must isolate and contact the [Protect Purdue Health Center](#). If you must miss class at any point in time during the semester, please reach out to me via email so that we can communicate about how you can maintain your academic progress. If you find yourself too sick to progress in the course, notify me and we will make arrangements based on your particular situation. Please note that, according to [Details for Students on Normal Operations for Fall 2021](#) announced on the Protect Purdue website, "individuals who test positive for COVID-19 are not guaranteed remote access to all course activities, materials, and assignments."

**Course Schedule**

The course is organized as weekly themes on the following:

*Research Design:* Inferences, Concept Formation, Case Selection

*Data Collection:* Archives, Interviews, Participant Observation

*Data Analysis:* Content Analysis, Case Writing

*Validation Strategies:* Process Tracing, Method of Difference/Agreement, Shadow Cases, and Counterfactuals

Gender balance of assigned readings: 45% women, 55% men

**Important: Read the assignments in the order listed.**

<b>WEEK ONE</b>	
8/24 <b>Introduction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Clifford Geertz. 1972. “Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese Cockfight.” <i>Daedalus</i>.</li> <li>❖ Carol Cohn. 1987. “Sex and Death in the Rational World of Defense Intellectuals.” <i>Signs</i>.</li> <li>❖ Nina Tannenwald. 1999. “The Nuclear Taboo: The United States and the Normative Basis of Nuclear Non-Use.” <i>International Organization</i>.</li> </ul>
<b>WEEK TWO</b>	
8/31 <b>Inferences</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. 1994. <i>Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research</i>, Chapter 1 “The Science in Social Science”</li> <li>❖ Gary Goertz and James Mahoney. 2012. <i>A Tale of Two Cultures: Qualitative and Quantitative Research in the Social Sciences</i>, Chapter 3 “Causes-of-Effects versus Effects-of-Causes”</li> <li>❖ Peregrine Schwartz-Shea and Dvora Yanow. 2012. <i>Interpretive Research Design: Concepts and Processes</i>, Chapter 2 “Ways of Knowing: Research Questions and Logics of Inquiry”</li> <li>❖ Srivastava, Swati. 2020. “Varieties of Social Construction.” <i>International Studies Review</i>.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Michael Frazer. 2020. "Respect for Subjects in the Ethics of Causal and Interpretive Social Explanation." <i>American Political Science Review</i>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>WEEK THREE</b></p>	
<p>9/7 <b>Concept Formation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Charles Roger. 2020. <i>The Origins of Informality: Why the Legal Foundations of Global Governance are Shifting, and Why it Matters</i>, Chapter 2 "Conceptualizing and Mapping Informality"</li> <li>❖ Robin Bartram. 2021. "Cracks in Broken Windows: How Objects Shape Professional Evaluation." <i>American Journal of Sociology</i>.</li> <li>❖ Gary Goertz and James Mahoney. 2012. <i>A Tale of Two Cultures: Qualitative and Quantitative Research in the Social Sciences</i>, Chapter 10 "Concepts: Definitions, Indicators, and Error"</li> <li>❖ Gary Goertz and James Mahoney. 2012. <i>A Tale of Two Cultures: Qualitative and Quantitative Research in the Social Sciences</i>, Chapter 13 "Conceptual Opposites and Typologies"</li> <li>❖ Fred Schaffer. 2016. <i>Elucidating Social Science Concepts: An Interpretivist Guide</i>, Chapter 1 "Why Do Concepts Need Elucidating?"</li> </ul>
<p><b>WEEK FOUR</b></p>	
<p>9/14 <b>Case Selection</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Kyle Lascuertes. 2020. <i>Orders of Exclusion: Great Powers and the Strategic Sources of Foundational Rules in International Relations</i>, Chapter 2 "Reordering International Order"</li> <li>❖ Gary Goertz and James Mahoney. 2012. <i>A Tale of Two Cultures: Qualitative and Quantitative Research in the Social Sciences</i>, Chapter 14 "Case Selection and Hypothesis Testing"</li> <li>❖ Alexander George and Andrew Bennett. 2005. <i>Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences</i>, Chapter 3 "The Method of Structured, Focused Comparison"</li> <li>❖ Alexander George and Andrew Bennett. 2005. <i>Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences</i>, Chapter 4 "Designing Case Study Research"</li> <li>❖ Swati Srivastava. Forthcoming. <i>Hybrid Sovereignty in World Politics</i>, Chapter 2 "Ideal-Types of Sovereign Hybridity"</li> </ul>

<b>WEEK FIVE</b>	
<p>9/21 <b>Archives</b></p>	<p><b>Paper One, “Create a Concept,” due on Friday 9/24 (11:59 pm)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Swati Srivastava. 2021. “Navigating NGO-Government Relations in Human Rights: New Archival Evidence from Amnesty International, 1961-1986.” <i>International Studies Quarterly</i>.</li> <li>❖ Marc Trachtenberg. 2006. <i>The Craft of International History: A Guide to Method</i>, Chapter 5 “Working with Documents”</li> <li>❖ Marc Trachtenberg. 2006. <i>The Craft of International History: A Guide to Method</i>, Appendix “Working with Primary Sources”</li> <li>❖ Putnam, Lara. 2016. “The Transnational and the Text-Searchable: Digitized Sources and the Shadows They Cast.” <i>The American Historical Review</i></li> <li>❖ Jelena Subotic. 2020. “Ethics of Archival Research on Political Violence.” <i>Journal of Peace Research</i>.</li> </ul>
<b>WEEK SIX</b>	
<p>9/28 <b>Interviews</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Zoltán Búzás. 2018. “Is the Good News About Law Compliance Good News About Norm Compliance? The Case of Racial Equality.” <i>International Organization</i></li> <li>❖ Layna Mosley, ed. 2013. <i>Interview Research in Political Science</i>, Chapter 1, “Aligning Sampling Strategies with Analytic Goals”</li> <li>❖ Layna Mosley, ed. 2013. <i>Interview Research in Political Science</i>, Chapter 2, “The Ethical Treatment of Human Subjects and the Institutional Review Board Process”</li> <li>❖ Layna Mosley, ed. 2013. <i>Interview Research in Political Science</i>, Chapter 5, “Crafting Interviews to Capture Cause and Effect”</li> <li>❖ Lee Ann Fujii. 2018. <i>Interviewing in Social Science Research: A Relational Approach</i>, Chapter 1 “What is Relational Interviewing?”</li> <li>❖ Rana Khoury. 2020. “Hard-to-Survey Populations and Respondent-Driven Sampling: Expanding the Political Science Toolbox.” <i>Perspectives on Politics</i>.</li> </ul>
<b>WEEK SEVEN</b>	
<p>10/5 <b>Participant Observation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Michael Barnett. 1997. “The UN Security Council, Indifference, and Genocide in Rwanda.” <i>Cultural Anthropology</i>.</li> <li>❖ Clifford Geertz. 1973. “Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture.”</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Edward Schatz. 2009. “Ethnographic Immersion and the Study of Politics.” <i>Political Ethnography: What Immersion Contributes to the Study of Power</i>.</li> <li>❖ Katherine Cramer Walsh. 2009. “Scholars as Citizens: Studying Public Opinion through Ethnography.” <i>Political Ethnography: What Immersion Contributes to the Study of Power</i>.</li> <li>❖ Ezgi Irgil, Anne-Kathrin Kreft, Myunghee Lee, Charmaine N Willis, Kelebogile Zvobgo. 2021. “Field Research: A Graduate Student’s Guide.” <i>International Studies Review</i></li> <li>❖ Di Wang and Sida Liu. 2021. “Doing Ethnography on Social Media: A Methodological Reflection on the Study of Online Groups in China.” <i>Qualitative Inquiry</i>.</li> </ul>
<b>WEEK EIGHT</b>	
10/12	No Class
<b>WEEK NINE</b>	
10/19 <b>Content Analysis I</b>	<p><b>Paper Two, “Generate Data,” due on Friday, 10/22 (11:59 pm)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Rachel Sweet. 2021. “Concealing Conflict Markets: How Rebels and Firms Use State Institutions to Launder Wartime Trade.” <i>International Organization</i>.</li> <li>❖ Johnny Saldaña. 2016. <i>The Coding Manual for Qualitative Researchers</i>, Chapter 1 “An Introduction to Codes and Coding”</li> <li>❖ Johnny Saldaña. 2016. <i>The Coding Manual for Qualitative Researchers</i>, Chapter 3 “First Cycle Coding Methods”</li> <li>❖ Johnny Saldaña. 2016. <i>The Coding Manual for Qualitative Researchers</i>, Appendix C: Field Note, Interview Transcript, and Document Samples for Coding</li> </ul>
<b>WEEK TEN</b>	
10/26 <b>Content Analysis II</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Ronald Krebs. 2015. <i>Narrative and the Making of US National Security</i>, Chapter 6 “Tracking the Cold War Consensus”</li> <li>❖ Ronald Krebs. 2015. <i>Narrative and the Making of US National Security</i>, Appendices A-D, Content Analysis Method</li> <li>❖ Lee Ann Fujii. 2018. <i>Interviewing in Social Science Research: A Relational Approach</i>, Chapter 5 “I Have My Data – Now What?”</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Meredith Loken. 2021. "Using Images as Data in Political Violence Research." <i>Journal of Human Rights</i>.</li> <li>❖ Swati Srivastava. Forthcoming. <i>Hybrid Sovereignty in World Politics</i>, Chapter 3 "Hybrid Sovereign Empire in the East India Company"</li> </ul>
<p><b>WEEK ELEVEN</b></p>	
<p>11/2 <b>Within-Case Process Tracing</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Paul Musgrave and Daniel H. Nexon. 2018. "Defending Hierarchy from the Moon to the Indian Ocean: Symbolic Capital and Political Dominance in Early Modern China and the Cold War." <i>International Organization</i>.</li> <li>❖ Derek Beach and Rasmus Pedersen. 2012. "What is Process Tracing Actually Tracing? The Three Variants of Process Tracing Methods and their Uses and Limitations."</li> <li>❖ Gary Goertz and James Mahoney. 2012. <i>A Tale of Two Cultures: Qualitative and Quantitative Research in the Social Sciences</i>, Chapter 8 "Causal Mechanisms and Process Tracing"</li> <li>❖ Andrew Bennett and Jeff Checkel, eds. 2015. <i>Process Tracing: From Metaphor to Analytic Tool</i>, Chapter 1 "Process Tracing"</li> <li>❖ Tasha Fairfield. 2013. "Going Where the Money Is: Strategies for Taxing Economic Elites in Unequal Democracies." <i>World Development</i>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>WEEK TWELVE</b></p>	
<p>11/9 <b>Cross-Case Analysis</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Alexander George and Andrew Bennett. 2005. <i>Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences</i>, Chapter 8 "Comparative Methods: Controlled Comparison and Within-Case Analysis"</li> <li>❖ Peace Medie. 2020. <i>Global Norms and Local Action: The Campaigns to End Violence against Women in Africa</i>, Introduction</li> <li>❖ Peace Medie. 2020. <i>Global Norms and Local Action: The Campaigns to End Violence against Women in Africa</i>, Chapter 7 "Establishment of the Specialized Units in Liberia and Cote d'Ivoire"</li> <li>❖ Sasha Klyachkina. 2021. "Perceptions of Governance: State and Nonstate Governance in the North Caucasus." <i>Post-Soviet Affairs</i>.</li> <li>❖ Alexander Cooley and Daniel Nexon. 2020. <i>Exit from Hegemony: The Unraveling of the American Global Order</i>, Chapter 4 "Exit from Above: Russia and China Seek to Transform the International Order"</li> </ul>



<b>WEEK THIRTEEN</b>	
11/16 <b>Shadow Cases &amp; Counterfactuals</b>	<p><b>Paper Three, “Analyze Data,” due on Friday, 11/19 (11:59 pm)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Gary Goertz and James Mahoney. 2012. <i>A Tale of Two Cultures: Qualitative and Quantitative Research in the Social Sciences</i>, Chapter 9 “Counterfactuals”</li> <li>❖ Michael Poznansky. 2020. <i>In the Shadow of International Law: Secrecy and Regime Change in the Postwar World</i>, Chapter 1 “Introduction”</li> <li>❖ Michael Poznansky. 2020. <i>In the Shadow of International Law: Secrecy and Regime Change in the Postwar World</i>, Chapter 6 “Operation Power Pack: Dominican Republic”</li> <li>❖ Hillel Soifer. 2020. “Shadow Cases in Comparative Research.” <i>Qualitative and Multi-Method Research</i>.</li> <li>❖ Michael Poznansky. 2020. <i>In the Shadow of International Law: Secrecy and Regime Change in the Postwar World</i>, Chapter 8 “The Future of Covert Regime Change”</li> </ul>
<b>WEEK FOURTEEN</b>	
11/23	<i>No Class</i>
<b>WEEK FIFTEEN</b>	
11/30 <b>Case Writing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Julian Go. 2020. “The Imperial Origins of American Policing: Militarization and Imperial Feedback in the Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century.” <i>American Journal of Sociology</i>.</li> <li>❖ Austin Carson. 2016. “Facing Off and Saving Face: Covert Intervention and Escalation Management in the Korean War.” <i>International Organization</i>.</li> <li>❖ Johnny Saldaña. 2012. <i>Fundamentals of Qualitative Research</i>, Chapter 5 “Writing and Presenting Qualitative Research.”</li> <li>❖ Marc Trachtenberg. 2006. <i>The Craft of International History: A Guide to Method</i>, Chapter 7 “Writing It Up”</li> </ul>
<b>WEEK SIXTEEN</b>	
12/7 <b>Presentation</b>	<b>Research Proposal Class Presentations</b>

<b>FINALS WEEK</b>	
<b>12/17 Proposal</b>	<b>Research Proposal due at 12 pm</b>