POS 6757: Survey Design for Political Science Research

Wednesdays 6:00pm – 8:50pm - Remote through Zoom - Spring 2021

Instructor: Konstantin Ash (Konstantin.Ash@ucf.edu) Office Hours: MW 3-5p Remotely on Skype @kash264

Course Description

This course introduces students to process of designing their own survey with a special focus on experimental and survey experimental designs in political science. The course is divided intro three parts. During the first five weeks, students are introduces to basic survey design, including sampling and questionnaire design, along with potential issues that may appear in such a design that would otherwise impede successful survey administration. During the second four weeks, students are introduced to experimental designs and causal inference. This part of the course is intended to make students both successful consumers and producers of experiments and survey experiments alike. The final four weeks are a seminar-style review of recent work in international relations that has utilized survey and survey experimental designs.

During the course, students will be assigned two homeworks, an article critique, and a two-stage research design assignment with the goal of producing a survey questionnaire and design that is implementable in a research setting at the conclusion of the course.

Assignments

Homework Assignments

There are two homework assignments, assigned at the end of each course section and due the week after at the beginning of the class noted on the course schedule. Each will be non-cumulative examinations of recently taught skills: survey design and experimental methods. Each assignment will be worth 15% of the final class grade.

Article Critique

At the conclusion of the seminar portion of the course, students must also submit a detailed article critique of two articles from the assigned readings on weeks 10-13. Students can also choose their own readings for the critique conditional on instructor approval. The critique should answer: What do the articles do correctly? What inferential problems need to be addressed? Article critiques should focus

on survey and survey experimental designs, not issues of general research design or literature reviews. The critique is due one week after the conclusion of the seminar portion of the course on April 21 and is worth 10% of the total grade

Research Design and Survey Questionnaire

The research design is to be divided into two assignments. The first is the submission of a questionnaire and a discussion of potential problems of inference (due on **April 7, at 6:00pm**) and the latter is a formal research design that includes a literature review, research design and revised questionnaire due on **Tuesday, May 4, 2021 @ 12:00pm**. The former assignment is worth 20% of the final grade, while the latter is worth 40%.

Sample Questionnaire Guidelines

In this portion of the assignment, you are required to produce a survey questionnaire for a survey that you would run as part of your research. In addition to the questions, you should state your sample size, sampling frame and levels of aggregation at which sampling will take place, along with what randomization techniques will be used.. **Experimental components to the questionnaire are encouraged, but are optional.**

A supplementary component to the questionnaire is a discussion of what possible problems of inference (that we have discussed in the course), may occur as a result of your fielding of the survey and how you would address those problems.

Research Design Guidelines

The purpose of this assignment is to have a ready-to-go funding proposal that allows you to field your survey. The research design should be founded in the survey questionnaire and its revisions – you will receive feedback from both your classmates and from me after you have submitted it. The design should include all of the components necessary for a successful grant proposal for a survey:

1. An introduction that summarizes the benefits of the survey and gaps in existing knowledge.
2. A literature review that captures up-to-date research on your subject and how your survey would fit in.
3. Theoretical mechanisms that your survey is intended to test and how those mechanism were drawn.
4. A narrative describing your survey's future implementation, including details about how the survey would be fielded, what the key questions to be asked are and justifications for the design.
5. A discussion of the ways that you would analyze your survey's results.
6. A discussion of the benefits the results would bring to both researchers and policy-makers.
7. A revised version of the survey questionnaire attached as an appendix.

Presentation

Students have the option of presenting their research design on the last day of class (**April 21, 2021**). The design does not need to be finished, but enough should be completed to make a presentation by that time. The gap between the presentation and when the paper is due is designed so that students may receive feedback on their work and then address that feedback before the final paper is due.

Plagiarism

There is a ZERO tolerance policy on plagiarism. If you are found having copied any substantial portion of your paper from other sources without having first accredited them, you will either have large amounts of points deducted from your paper grade or will fail the class altogether. Please consult the UCF Office of Student Conduct's Rules of Conduct for more information.

Grade Breakdown

Research Paper – 40%
Sample Questionnaire – 20%
Two Homework Assignments – 15% each
Article Critique – 10%

Course Schedule and Readings

Required Textbooks

- Robert M. Groves, Floyd J. Fowler, Mick P. Couper, James M. Lepkowski, Eleanor Singer, and Roger Tourangeau. Survey Methodology. Wiley-Interscience, second edition, 2009
- Alan S. Gerber and Donald P. Greene. Field Experiments: Design, Analysis and Implementation.

Week 1 (January 13) - Introduction to Survey Research in Political Science

Reading:

- Groves et. Al. Ch. 2, 3.
- Peter Lynn, Nicholas Buck, Jonathan Burton, Annette Jackle, and Heather Laurie. A review of methodological research pertinent to longitudinal survey design and data collection. ISER Working Paper 29, Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of Essex, 2005.'
- Erin C. Cassese, Leonie Huddy, Todd K. Hartman, Lilliana Mason, and Christopher R. Weber. Socially mediated internet surveys: Recruiting participants for online experiments. PS: Political Science & Politics, 46(4):1–10, 2013.

Week 2 (January 20) - Sampling Techniques in Political Science

Reading:

- Groves et. Al. Ch. 4, 5.

- Adam J. Berinsky, Gregory A. Huber, and Gabriel S. Lenz. Evaluating online labor markets for experimental research: Amazon.com's mechanical turk. Political Analysis, 20(3):351–368, March 2012
- Frauke Kreuter, Stanley Presser, and Roger Tourangeau. Social desirability bias in CATI, IVR, and web surveys: The effects of mode and question sensitivity. Public Opinion Quarterly, 72(5):847–865, January 2009.

Week 3 (January 27) - Political Science Question Design

Reading:

- Groves et. Al. Ch. 7, 8.
- Clyde Wilcox, Lee Sigelman, and Elizabeth Cook. Some like it hot: Individual differences in responses to group feeling thermometers. Public Opinion Quarterly, 53(2):246–257, 1989.
- John Zaller and Stanley Feldman. A simple theory of the survey response: Answering questions versus revealing preferences. American Journal of Political Science, 36(3):579–616, 1992.
- Stephen Ansolabehere, Jonathan Rodden, and James M. Jr. Snyder. The strength of issues: Using multiple measures to gauge preference stability, ideological constraint, and issue voting. American Political Science Review, 102(02):215–232, June 2008

Week 4 (February 3) - Quantitative Methods in Political Science Refresher

Reading:

- Allison, Paul D. Multiple Regression: A Primer. Pine Forge Press. 1998. Whole thing, but focus on Chs. 1, 6 and 9.

Week 5 (February 10) - Fielding Political Science Surveys

Reading:

- Groves et. Al. Ch. 9, 10.
- Mintz, Alex, Steven B. Redd, and Arnold Vedlitz. "Can we generalize from student experiments to the real world in political science, military affairs, and international relations?." Journal of Conflict Resolution 50.5 (2006): 757-776.
- Stanley Presser, Mick P. Couper, Judith T. Lessler, Elizabeth Martin, Jean Martin, Jennifer M. Rothgeb, and Eleanor Singer. Methods for testing and evaluating survey questions. Public Opinion Quarterly, 68(1):109–130, 2004.
- George F. Bishop, Alfred Tuchfarber, and R.W. Oldendick. Opinions on fictitious issues: The pressure to answer survey questions. Public Opinion Quarterly, 50(2):240–250, 1986.

Homework 1 Assigned

Week 6 (February 17) - Causal Inference in Political Science

Reading:

- Gerber and Greene Ch. 2
- Keele, Luke. "The statistics of causal inference: A view from political methodology." Political Analysis 23, no. 3 (2015): 313-335.
- Duflo Kremer "Using Randomization in Development Economics Research: A Toolkit." pp. 3-46.
- Bruhn, Miriam, and David McKenzie. "In pursuit of balance: Randomization in practice in development field experiments." American economic journal: applied economics 1.4 (2009): 200-232.

Homework 1 Due Wednesday February 17 @ 6pm

Week 7 (February 24) - Experimental Design and Analysis

Reading:

- Gerber and Greene Ch. 3-4, 9.
- Imbens, Guido W. "Better LATE than nothing: Some comments on Deaton (2009) and Heckman and Urzua (2009)." Journal of Economic literature 48.2 (2010): 399-423.

Week 8 (March 3)- Non-Standard Experimental and Survey Experimental Designs

Reading:

- Bullock, Will, Kosuke Imai, and Jacob N. Shapiro. "Statistical analysis of endorsement experiments: Measuring support for militant groups in Pakistan." Political Analysis 19.4 (2011): 363-384.
- Glynn, Adam N. "What can we learn with statistical truth serum? Design and analysis of the list experiment." Public Opinion Quarterly 77.S1 (2013): 159-172.
- Hainmueller, Jens, Daniel J. Hopkins, and Teppei Yamamoto. "Causal inference in conjoint analysis: Understanding multidimensional choices via stated preference experiments." Political Analysis 22, no. 1 (2014): 1-30.
- Bertrand, Marianne, and Sendhil Mullainathan. "Are Emily and Greg more employable than Lakisha and Jamal? A field experiment on labor market discrimination." American economic review 94, no. 4 (2004): 991-1013.
- Blair, Graeme, Kosuke Imai, and Yang-Yang Zhou. "Design and analysis of the randomized response technique." Journal of the American Statistical Association 110.511 (2015): 1304-1319

Week 9 (March 10) - Dealing With Problems in Experimental Designs

Reading:

- Gerber and Greene Chs. 5-7

- Karlan, Dean, and Jonathan Zinman. "Observing unobservables: Identifying information asymmetries with a consumer credit field experiment." Econometrica 77.6 (2009): 1993-2008.
- Horowitz, Joel L., and Charles F. Manski. "Censoring of outcomes and regressors due to survey nonresponse: Identification and estimation using weights and imputations." Journal of Econometrics 84.1 (1998): 37-58.
- Robert M. Groves. Nonresponse rates and nonresponse bias in household surveys. Public Opinion Quarterly, 70(5):646–675, 2006.
- Duflo Kremer "Using Randomization in Development Economics Research: A Toolkit." pp. 47-73.

Homework 2 Assigned

Week 10 (March 17) - Survey Research in Political Science

Reading:

- Bafumi, Joseph, and Michael C. Herron. "Leapfrog representation and extremism: A study of American voters and their members in Congress." American Political Science Review 104, no. 3 (2010): 519-542.
- Rosenfeld, Bryn. "Reevaluating the Middle-Class Protest Paradigm: A Case-Control Study of Democratic Protest Coalitions in Russia." American Political Science Review 111, no. 4 (2017): 637-652.
- Huddy, L., Feldman, S., Taber, C., Lahav, G. (2005). Threat, anxiety, and support of antiterrorism policies. American journal of political science, 49(3), 593-608.
- Kertzer, J. D., Powers, K. E., Rathbun, B. C., & Iyer, R. (2014). Moral support: How moral values shape foreign policy attitudes. The Journal of Politics, 76(3), 825-840.
- Lupu, Noam, and Leonid Peisakhin. "The legacy of political violence across generations." American Journal of Political Science 61, no. 4 (2017): 836-851.

Homework 2 Due Wednesday March 24 @ 6pm

Week 11 (March 24) - Survey Experiments in Political Science I

Reading:

- Gerber, Alan S., and Donald P. Green. "The effects of canvassing, telephone calls, and direct mail on voter turnout: A field experiment." American political science review 94, no. 3 (2000): 653-663.
- Hainmueller, Jens, and Daniel J. Hopkins. "The hidden American immigration consensus: A conjoint analysis of attitudes toward immigrants." American Journal of Political Science 59, no. 3 (2015): 529-548.
- Tomz, M. R., & Weeks, J. L. (2013). Public opinion and the democratic peace. American political science review, 107(4), 849-865.
- Hager, Anselm, Krzysztof Krakowski, and Max Schaub. "Ethnic Riots and Prosocial Behavior: Evidence from Kyrgyzstan." American Political Science Review 113, no. 4 (2019): 1029-1044.

- Wallace, G. P. (2013). International law and public attitudes toward torture: An experimental study. International Organization, 67(1), 105-140.

Week 12 (March 31) - Survey Experiments in Political Science II

Reading:

- Broockman, David, and Joshua Kalla. "Durably reducing transphobia: A field experiment on door-to-door canvassing." Science 352, no. 6282 (2016): 220-224.
- Butler, Daniel M., and David E. Broockman. "Do politicians racially discriminate against constituents? A field experiment on state legislators." American Journal of Political Science 55, no. 3 (2011): 463-477.
- Piazza, J. A. (2015). Terrorist suspect religious identity and public support for harsh interrogation and detention practices. Political Psychology, 36(6), 667-690.
- Habyarimana, James, et al. "Why does ethnic diversity undermine public goods provision?." American Political Science Review 101.4 (2007): 709-725.
- Chapman, Terrence, and Stephen Chaudoin. "Public Reactions to International Legal Institutions: The ICC in a Developing Country." Journal of Politics (2020).

Week 13 (April 7) - Survey Experiments Using Non-Standard Designs

Reading:

- Blair, Graeme, Kosuke Imai, and Jason Lyall. "Comparing and combining list and endorsement experiments: Evidence from Afghanistan." American Journal of Political Science 58.4 (2014): 1043-1063
- Lyall, Jason, Graeme Blair, and Kosuke Imai. "Explaining support for combatants during wartime: A survey experiment in Afghanistan." American Political Science Review 107.4 (2013): 679-705.
- Bansak, Kirk, Jens Hainmueller, and Dominik Hangartner. "How economic, humanitarian, and religious concerns shape European attitudes toward asylum seekers." Science 354, no. 6309 (2016): 217-222.
- Rosenfeld, Bryn, Kosuke Imai, and Jacob N. Shapiro. "An empirical validation study of popular survey methodologies for sensitive questions." American Journal of Political Science 60.3 (2016): 783-802.
- Holbrook, Allyson L., and Jon A. Krosnick. "Measuring voter turnout by using the randomized response technique: Evidence calling into question the method's validity." Public Opinion Quarterly 74.2 (2010): 328-343.

Sample Questionnaire and Inference Problems Due Wednesday April 7 @ 6pm

Week 14 - Optional presentations. Article Critique Due on April 21 @ 11:59PM

Final Paper Due on Tuesday, May 4, 2021 @ 12:00pm