**Seoul National University**

**Graduate School of International Studies**

**Spring 2010**

**Comparative Methodology**

Instructor: Seulki Choi

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Class Hours: Tuesday 2:30-5:30

###### Course Objective

###### This course covers how research questions are developed in such a way that they can be convincingly linked to and answered by empirical evidence, qualitatively or quantitatively. Most class time is devoted to presentation, discussion and critique. By the end of this course, students should learn how to evaluate conclusions and claims in relation to the strengths and weaknesses of the research design, data, measurement and analytic approach. I also expect this course serves to guide project development and proposal writings.

###### Teaching Philosophy

###### I believe that the classroom experience can be both fun and intellectually stimulating. I will have high standards for your participation and performance in the course. At the same time, the class will be a friendly environment. For example, I will expect you to come to class prepared to discuss, and I will call on you to participate in class. However, class participation will be conducted with a mixture of seriousness, humor, and respect to ensure a diversity of opinions and a supportive atmosphere for participation.

###### Course Readings

###### Royce A. Singleton, Jr. and Bruce C. Straits. 2009. Approaches to Social Research. 5th edition. Oxford University Press, USA.

Students will also be required to read supplemental articles.

### **Course Requirements**

**Class Attendance and Participation**

I expect students to attend class regularly and to participate in class discussions. Readings must be completed by the assigned dates. I presume students will attend almost all classes. More than 2 times of unexcused absences from class will hurt the final grade.

**Reading notes**

My expectation is that you will come to every class prepared to discuss the assigned readings. Key Concepts and reading questions will guide your reading. They will be the starting point of class discussion. Because the answers on the reading questions reflect preparation for participation in class, they must be sent to me by email before the class begins. Write your answers in the body. Do NOT attach it.

**Discussion Leader**

Each class will have a discussion leader who is in charge of discussion on related article.

**Presentations**

You will have two chances of presenting your own research proposal. The first one will be the short introduction of your research proposal. It is close to a research idea but should be concrete as much as possible to get a useful feedback. The second one will be the final version of research proposal, which presenting at the end of semester.

**Reading Paper**

The final paper (10-12 pages) will be the written version of your second presentation. It must include: (1) a clearly formulated research questions, (2) a literature review, (3) a design for research with a discussion on the strengths and weaknesses of your approach. It should also briefly mention: (4) the results (or expectation) of your data collection, (5) the results (or expectation) of your analysis.

### **Course Outline**

Week 1. 3/2 Introduction

Week 2. 3/9 Theories, Hypothesis and Variables.

Week 3. 3/16 Research Design

Week 4. 3/23 Measurement

Week 5. 3/30 Presentation: Short Research Proposal

Week 6. 4/6 Sampling

Week 7. 4/13 Research Ethics

Week 8. 4/20 Experimentation

Week 9. 4/27 Survey Research

Week 10. 5/4 Survey Questionnaire

Week 11. 5/11 Field Research

Week 12. 5/18 Quantitative Data, Descriptive Analysis, Regression Analysis.

Week 13. 5/25 Quantitative Advanced methods.

Week 14. 6/1 Presentation: Research Proposal

Week 15. 6/8 Presentation: Research Proposal continues.