**Comparative Methodology**

Fall, 2012

Graduate School of International Studies

Seoul National University

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**\* Aim of This Course**

   This course discusses research methodology emphasizing comparison in social scientific research. Throughout this course, I do not intend to train students on (advanced) quantitative data analysis skills, but to promote their capacity to do social scientific research by themselves. In addition to theoretical learning, students are given the chance to practice social survey by following steps on literature review, hypothesis construction, questionnaire construction, face-to-face interview, and data analysis. I hope that students can have self-confidence to be able to do their own research after they complete this course successfully. In addition to this, I also wish that they could be nurtured the ability of critical thinking that is one of the most important traits in scholarly works.

**\* Grading**

Individual Homework & Quiz 50%;

Group Project 40%

Attendance: 10%

**\* Classroom**

Building 140-1, Room 201

**\* Date and Time**

  Monday 1:30-4:00pm

**\* General Information**

1. There are practices on data analysis using SPSS

2. There is a group project of survey this semester.

3. Additional readings can be given to you during this semester.

4. No electronic devices (no mobile phones, no notebook, no iPad…) in the class room

**\* Reference**

Ragin, Charles C. and Lisa M. Amoroso. 2011. *Constructing Social Research*. Second Edition.

Sage. (Ragin)

Schutt, Russell K.. 2006. *Investigating the Social World*. *The Process and Practice of Research.*

5th Edition. New York: Pine Forge Press. (361.1072 Sch88i) Central Library and Library of GSIS. (Schutt)

**\*Course Schedule:**

**Week 1 (9/3) Introduction to the Course: Social Research**

\*Ragin. Chs. 1-2.

**Week 2 (9/10) Quantitative, Qualitative & Comparative Methods 1**

**Distinctions between them in research design**

\*Beckfield, Jason. 2006. “European Integration and Income Inequality” *American Sociological*

*Review* 71(6): 964-985.

\*Ono, Hiroshi. 2007. “Careers in Foreign-Owned Firms in Japan” *American Sociological*

*Review* 72(2): 267-290.

\*Otis, Eileen M. 2008. “Beyond the Industrial Paradigm: Market-Embedded Labor and the

Gender Organization of Global Service Work in China.” *American Sociological*

*Review* 73(1): 15-36.

**Week 3 (9/17) Quantitative, Qualitative and Comparative Methods 2**

\*Ragin. Chs. 5-7.

\*Eun’s presentation on gender preference for children as an exploratory research

**Week 4 (9/24) Social Research Questions, Review of Prior Research, Theory and**

**Hypothesis**

\*Schutt. Ch. 4. “Conceptualization and Measurement”

\*Beckfield, Jason. 2006. “European Integration and Income Inequality” *American Sociological*

*Review* 71(6): 964-985.

\*Ono, Hiroshi. 2007. “Careers in Foreign-Owned Firms in Japan” *American Sociological*

*Review* 72(2): 267-290.

\*Otis, Eileen M. 2008. “Beyond the Industrial Paradigm: Market-Embedded Labor and the

Gender Organization of Global Service Work in China.” *American Sociological*

*Review* 73(1): 15-36.

**Week 5 (10/ 1 NO Class)**

1. We have a class on May 28.

2. There will be homework.

**Week 6 (10/8) Conceptualization and Measurement: Reliability and Validity**

\*Schutt. Ch. 4. “Conceptualization and Measurement”

\*Beckfield, Jason. 2006. “European Integration and Income Inequality” *American Sociological*

*Review* 71(6): 964-985.

\*Ono, Hiroshi. 2007. “Careers in Foreign-Owned Firms in Japan” *American Sociological*

*Review* 72(2): 267-290.

\*Villarreal, Andres. 2010. “Stratification by Skin Color in Modern Mexico” *American*

*Sociological Review* 75(5): 652-678.

**Week 7 (10/15) Causation**

\*Schutt. Ch. 6. “Causation and Research Design”

\*Beckfield, Jason. 2006. “European Integration and Income Inequality” *American Sociological*

*Review* 71(6): 964-985.

\*Levitt, Steven D. and Stephen J. Dubner. 2005*. Freakonomics*. William Morrow.

Ch. 4. Where Have All the Criminals Gone? Pp. 117-144.

\*Rindfuss, Ronald and S. Philip Morgan. 1983. “Marriage, Sex and the First Birth Interval: The

Quiet Revolution in Asia” *Population and Development Review* 9(2): 259-278.

**Week 8 (10/22) Variable-oriented Research**

\*Beckfield, Jason. 2006. “European Integration and Income Inequality” *American Sociological*

*Review* 71(6): 964-985.

\*Ono, Hiroshi. 2007. “Careers in Foreign-Owned Firms in Japan” *American Sociological*

*Review* 72(2): 267-290.

**Week 9 (10/29) Experiment**

\*Schutt. Ch. 7. “Experiment”

\*NY Times. “Experiment will test the effectiveness of post-prison employment program”

\*Ariely, Dan. 2008. *Predictably Irrational: The Hidden Forces That Shape Our Decisions*. New

York: HarperCollins.

Ch. 6. The Problem of Procrastination and Self-Control

\*Kirk, David. 2009. “A Natural Experiment on Residential Change and Recidivism: Lessons

from Hurricane Katrina.” *American Sociological Review* 74(3): 484-505.

\*Schuman, Howard and Lawrence Bobo. 1988. “Survey-based Experiments on White Racial

Attitudes toward Residential Integration” *American Journal of Sociology* 94(2): 273-

99.

**Week 10 (11/ 5) Survey and Sampling**

\*Schutt. Chs. 5. “Sampling” & Ch. 8. “Survey Research”

\*Hunt, Morton. 1985. *Profiles of Social Research. The Scientific Study of Human Interactions*.

New York: Russell Sage Foundation. *Ch. 3. Sampling Social Reality*. Pp. 98-154.

**Week 11 (11/12) Quantitative and Comparative Research**

\*Shin, Gi-Wook. 2010. *One Alliance and Two Lenses*. Stanford University Press.

Chs.1-3 & Appendix

**Week 12 (11/19) Survey 1**

**Week 13 (11/26) Survey2**

\* We have a class although it is an official holiday.

**Week 14 (12/3) Presentation of Preliminary Analysis**

**Week 15 (12/10) Final Presentation**