

**University of Washington**  
**Daniel J. Evans School of Public Affairs**

**Research Design**

PBAF 502

Fall 2010

Mondays 10:00 to 12:50

**Professor Sanjeev Khagram**  
**Office Hours: Weds 10-12 (and by appt.)**  
**Parrington 323**  
**206-616-1674 (Office)**  
**skhagram@u.washington.edu**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course introduces graduate students to interdisciplinary foundations of research in the applied social sciences, and develops practical skills for conducting research. The goal is to provide solid grounding in philosophies of knowledge and the logics of research design, but not to achieve proficiency in any one methodology. By the end of the semester, you will be able to (1) understand different major philosophy of knowledge traditions that undergird research; (2) compare and contrast the types of research designs and methods appropriate for addressing particular research questions; (3) design your own research project in a dissertation prospectus or grant proposal; and (4) identify methodological strengths and weaknesses in published research in your field.

**EXPECTATIONS AND GRADING**

Students will be graded in three areas: 1) in-class participation worth 20%, 2) one in-class facilitation of required readings worth 20%, 3) an oral presentation based on interviewing a faculty member on one of her/his best pieces of research worth 20%, and 4) a research proposal worth 40% of the final grade.

**COURSE MATERIALS**

**Required**

- Readings packets

**Suggested Book to Purchase**

- James Clifford and George R. Marcus (eds.). 1986. Writing Culture: The Poetics and Politics of Ethnography. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Charles C. Ragin. 1987. The Comparative Method: Moving Beyond Qualitative and Quantitative Strategies. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Norman K. Denzin and Yvonna S. Lincoln (eds.). 1994. Handbook of Qualitative Research. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications.
- Robert K. Yin. 1994. Case Study Research. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications.
- Gary King, Robert Keohane, and Sidney Verba. 1994. Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Stephen Van Evera. 1997. Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science. Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press.
- Henry E. Brady and David Collier (eds.). 2002. Rethinking Social Inquiry: Diverse Tools, Shared Standards. Berkeley: University of California Public Policy Press.
- Donald T. Campbell and Julian C. Stanley. 2002. Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs for Research. Boston: Houghton Mifflin:

