After a time of decay comes the turning point. The powerful light that has been banished returns. There is movement, but it is not brought about by force… The movement is natural, arising spontaneously. For this reason the transformation of the old becomes easy. The old is discarded and the new is introduced. Both measures accord with the time; therefore no harm results. - I Ching

Who knoweth not the names, knoweth not the subject. - Carl von Linne (1737)

COURSE OUTLINE

This course is directed towards filling a major gap within the literature. While measurement is essential to what we do as students of politics, it is rarely discussed as something that we should study. Normally discussions of measurement are tacked on to the end of methods courses or the end of some course about some specific issue (e.g., public opinion, democracy, Western Europe, and so forth). Within this class, the emphasis is strictly on how one measures politics, specifically events but other aspects as well. Toward this end, we will address existing research, rigorously and carefully going through it and then attempting to develop it further - pushing the discipline as far as possible. [Knowledge of empirical strategies is not essential but it would be helpful.]
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The course is run on six principles:

1) careful reading of the assigned material;
2) active participation in class (25% of the grade);
3) a 3-5 page outline of the final paper (25%);
4) 1 final paper (50% of the grade);

**Final paper** - submitted on December 15th there will be a paper concerning a topic of the students choice (discussed with the Professor). Primarily, the student should seek to extend the already existing literature or take the area in a new direction. The paper should not exceed 40 pages in text (not including notes, tables, references and so forth).

As the area that we are addressing is relatively developed this task should be manageable - albeit not easy. The paper is open to geographic location, time period, and methodological technique (i.e., econometrics, computer simulation, case studies, or some combination [preferred]), as long as the one(s) selected is(are) appropriate for the particular research question put forth. Throughout the course we shall be going over all of these differences in some detail, so if you do not feel comfortable with one, you will be.
CLASS SCHEDULE

August

29. No Class: Pick of Reading for Next Week

Getting Started

September

5. The Desire to Measure

Measures and Men
Witold Kula
A Social History of Truth: Civility and Science in Seventeenth Century Spain
Stevin Shapin
The Measure of Reality: Quantification and Western Society, 1250-1600
Alfred Crosby
The Order of Things
Michel Foucault
Verstehen
Michael Martin
Ethnomethodology
Graham Button

12. The Research Process

Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research
Gary King, Robert Keohane, and Sidney Verba
Reliability and Validity Assessment
Edward Carmines and Richard Zeller

Measuring Conflict

19. What is Conflict? How Have People Attempted to Measure it?

James Scott (1985): Weapons of the Weak
Dieter Rucht et al. (1998): Acts of Dissent
Roberto Franzosi (2001): From Words to Numbers
Patrick Ball et al. (2000): Making the Case
Richard Merritt et al. (1993): International Event-Data Developments
Codebooks:

Will Moore and Ronny Linstrom – the Violent Intranational Conflict Data Project
Susan Olzak and Elizabeth West – Ethnic Collective Action in Contemporary Urban U.S.
Charles Tilly – Intensive Sample of Disturbances in France, 1830-1860 and 1930-1960
Ted Robert Gurr et al. – Minorities at Risk
Doug Bond and Joe Bond – Protocol for the Assessment of Nonviolent Direct Action

26. Applications within Domestic Conflict

Roberto Franzosi (1995): The Puzzle of Strikes
Charles Tilly et al. (1975): The Rebellious Century, 1830-1930
Grzegorz Ekiert and Jan Kubik (1999): Rebellious Civil Society
Stewart Tolnay and E.M. Beck (1995): A Festival of Violence

3. Investigating Problems and Providing Solutions


Measuring Democracy

10. What is Democracy?

Robert Dahl (1971): Polyarchy
David Held (1996): Models of Democracy
Harry Eckstein and Ted Gurr (1975): Patterns of Authority
Samuel Huntington (1991): The Third Wave: Democratization in the Late Twentieth Century
17. How Have People Attempted to Measure it?

Kim Hill (1994): Democracy in the 50 States
Alex Inkeles (1993): On Measuring Democracy
Tatu Vanhanen (1990): The Process of Democratization

24. Investigating Problems and Providing Solutions

David Richards (1999): Death Takes a Holiday

Measuring Power

31. What is Power? How Have People Attempted to Measure it?

Dennis Chong (1979): Power
Steven Lukes (1974): Power: A Radical View
Stewart Clegg (1989): Frameworks of Power
November

**Measuring Hate**

[Outlines for Projects Due]

7. What is a Hate Crime? How Have People Attempted to Measure it?

- Bureau of Justice Statistics: “Model Law Enforcement Hate/Bias Crimes Training for Patrol Officers
- Bureau of Justice Statistics (Assorted Working Papers)
- Frederick Lawrence (1999): Punishing Hate

**Measuring History**

14. What is History? How Have People Attempted to Measure it?


**Measuring Whatever You Want to Measure**

21. Student Projects

28. Student Projects

December

5. Student Projects

15. **Final Projects due**