

Review Sheet for Midterm Exam #1
POS 3713 - Spring 2007 (Dr. Hensel)

You will have the scheduled class period on **Tuesday, February 6** to complete the exam.

- The exam covers FNLG chapter 1, J&R chapters 1-8, and the assigned journal articles, as well as all material covered in the lecture notes. The questions on the first exam are all multiple-choice questions.
- No books, notes, or other materials will be allowed during the exam.
- Note that no bathroom breaks are permitted during the exam -- once you leave the room, you can't return. Also, be on time -- once the first person finishes and leaves the room, nobody else can enter.

General Material to Review:

- What the scientific approach is and how this differs from other sources of knowledge (generalization, falsifiable, empirical, probabilistic, non-normative, uncertainty)
- What theories include, and why they are useful/important
- Diehl and Kingston: understand how they compare different theories that produce the same basic hypothesis
- How the scientific research process works
- How to interpret the results of scientific analyses (is hyp. supported? what to do if it is, and what if it isn't?)
- How experimental control works in natural science labs, and why this won't work in most social science areas
- Ansolabehere et al.: understand why they chose an experimental approach, and how it helped them
- Campbell and Ross: understand why they chose a quasi-experimental approach, and how it helped them
- What research designs include, and why they are useful/important
- Difference between covariation/correlation and causation (and reasons why)
- How to assess the causality of an observed relationship
- Relative internal and external validity of experimental, quasi-experiment, and non-experimental designs
- Causes of measurement error
- Mondak and Sanders: compare their measure of tolerance (and its implications) to earlier work
- Strengths/weaknesses of data sources (experiments, existing data, observation, document analysis, surveys)
- Types of survey techniques (in person, mail in, phone)
- Strengths and weaknesses of surveys (such as question wording problems)
- How a typical poli sci research article is organized (and what each section should include)

Specific Terms to Review:

Idiographic vs. Nomothetic approaches	Regression toward the mean
Hypotheses and Theories	Operationalization
Independent and Dependent Variables	Concepts, Variables, Indicators, and Values
Inductive and Deductive theory construction	Nominal, Ordinal, Interval, and Ratio-level variables
Spurious Relationship	Discrete vs. Continuous Variables
Antecedent Variables	Coding & Codebook
Intervening Variables	Systematic vs. random measurement error
Alternative Rival Hypothesis	Measurement Validity (and ways to assess it)
Experimental and Control Groups	Measurement Reliability (and ways to assess it)
Experimental designs (basic idea and types)	Survey research (basic idea and types)
Experimental effect (and how to calculate it)	Types of sampling techniques for survey research
Quasi-experimental designs (basic idea and types)	Major surveys: ANES, Gallup, exit polls
Non-experimental designs (basic idea and types)	Literature review