Today’s Agenda
- Review last class
- *Freakonomics*
- C&H, Chapters 1 & 2
- The research process

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Reviewing Last Week
- Characteristics of Scientific Knowledge
  - Empirical and empirical verification
  - Applied or theoretical
  - Transmissible
  - Non-normative
  - General
- Qualitative and quantitative
- Bivariate and multivariate
- Induction vs. Deduction

Transmissible
- Can others reproduce it?

Normative, and non-normative
- Normative - you’re making value judgments
- Non-normative - you’re asking a question and whatever the answer is, you will accept it—regardless of value judgments.
- Think about abortion - murder

Bivariate, multivariate
- Bivariate - the relationship between two things.
  - # of hours of practice & points per game
- Multivariate - the relationship between more than one cause and one effect
  - # of hours of practice, position, natural talent, talent of the team & points per game
Quantitative vs. Qualitative
- Quantitative = numbers
- Qualitative = no numbers

Two ways of acquiring scientific knowledge
- Induction: Reasoning from specific observation to a general principle.
- Deduction: Proceeding from general principle or theory to specific observations

Induction vs. deduction
- Induction - From specific to general. NC is this way, therefore all southern states are this way
- Deduction - From general to specific. Southern states are this way, therefore NC is this way.

Freakonomics
- Apply the lessons of Freakonomics:
  - A friend’s daycare recently put in a $1 fine for every minute you are late picking up your kids. Will this work? Why?
  - What would make it more or less successful?
  - Why has there been more crime in New Orleans since the floods?
  - Do teachers cheat? Give an example.
  - Do sumo wrestlers cheat? How would you know?

Why is studying political science is hard
- Measurement problems
- Complexity of humans
- Obstacles to data collection

C&H Chapters 1 & 2
- Questions?
The Research Process

- Formulating the research question
  - Has voter turnout really decreased?

The Research Process

- The literature review
  - What have other people done that impact your study?
  - Think of it like precedence in law

The Research Process

- Formulating the Hypothesis
  - Voter Turnout has not decreased

The Research Process

- Defining the Concepts
  - Getting it straight in your head

The Research Process

- Operationalizing the concepts

\[
\text{Turnout Rate} = \frac{\text{Number of Votes}}{\text{Voting Age Population}}
\]
The Research Process

- Operationalizing the Concepts
- Who is ineligible to vote?
  - Non-citizens
  - Ineligible Felons
  - Mentally Incompetent

Turnout Rate = \frac{\text{Number of Votes}}{\text{Voting Eligible Population}}

Measuring the Data

- Actually getting your data
  - Survey
  - Focus Group
  - Experiment
  - Voting Records
  - Political Party

The Research Process

- Statistical Analysis
  - Select appropriate tools

Drawing Conclusions

- Do the results support the theory posited at the beginning of the process?
The Research Process

- Writing the Research Report
  - Do not ignore this step!
  - How you present your findings is very important for how well they are received!

For Next Class:

- C&H Chapter 7
  - Don’t read Popkin and McDonald
  - Do read the Endersby article

Answer the following questions

- What was the most important point of class today?
- What would you like to know more about?
- What was the muddiest point of class?