PSC 348: Political Analysis

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Beginning of Class Schedule

- Collect homework
- Guest speaker: Candidate for the Director of Sponsored Programs at WCU.

Reviewing last class

- Research question: Do USI classes increase retention?
- With a partner, identify a way to answer this question using a:
  - Cross-sectional design
  - Time-Series Design
  - Panel Design

Determining the unit of analysis

- Facts about what?
  - Individuals, groups, institutions, etc.
  - Must be consistent
- Number of grams of protein is an attribute of a cereal
- A cause of death is an attribute of a person
- A literary rate is an attribute of a country
Unit of Analysis Example

- For instance, the individual member of the House of Representatives is the unit of analysis in the individual hypothesis:
  - Members of the House of Representatives who belong to the same party as the president are more likely to vote for legislation desired by the president than members who belong to a different party.

Unit of Analysis Example

- The city is the unit of analysis in the following hypothesis:
  - Northeastern cities are more likely to have mayors, while western cities have city managers.
- What is the unit of analysis here?
  - The more affluent countries are, the more likely they are to have democratic political institutions.

Ecological Fallacy

- If you mix your units of analysis (by hypothesizing one and measuring another, or having an independent variable with one and a dependent variable with another), then you are committing an ECOLOGICAL FALLACY (that’s bad).