Agenda
- Getting a job with a Political Science degree
- What should you get out of political science?
- *Moneyball* and Political Science
- Characteristics of Scientific Knowledge
- Ways to Acquire Scientific Knowledge
- Political Science and the Scientific Method

Goal of the Course
- Develop Research Skills
  - Touch on all of the research design skills listed on Table 1
  - Discuss all of the data analysis skills
  - Some exposure to computer application skills
  - What about the “core liberal arts skills?”

Why did you major in the social sciences?
- Can you really get a job?

Moneyball
- What was it about?
- How does it relate to this class?

Major points to get out of *Moneyball*
- Learn to ask the right questions
- Old time baseball knowledge vs. the “science of baseball.”
  - Which is more efficient?
- Measurement matters
  - How do you measure how much a player adds?
  - Are saves a good way to measure the value of a relief pitcher?
Bottom line

- A scientific approach to understanding baseball helped Billy Beane build a winner in Oakland.
- A scientific approach to understanding politics can pay similar dividends, whether your goal is winning a campaign, or merely better understanding how your government works.

What is Social Science

- Social Science is the application of methods of acquiring knowledge to the study of social phenomena.

Characteristics of Scientific Knowledge

- Empirical and Subject to empirical verification
- Applied or theoretical
- Nonnormative
- Transmissible
- General

Empirical

- Based on observation of real phenomenon
  - Quantitative
  - Qualitative

Two types of research

- Applied: Immediate Use
- Theoretical: Intellectual Curiosity

Nonnormative & Normative

- Normative: How the world should be
- Non-normative: How the world is
Normative and non-normative ways to look at a problem

- Normative: Guns are bad. Guns aren’t the problem, people are the problem.
- Non-normative (positive):
  - Gun ownership is positively correlated with the occurrence of violent death in the home
  - Gun ownership is negatively correlated with the occurrence of violent crimes against an individual

Transmissible

- Others must be able to evaluate the findings
- How do you do this?
  - Make your decisions very clear
  - Made data available for others to replicate

General

- Knowledge that describes, explains, and predicts many things.

Today’s Wrap up

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