COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course examines the case study method for doing social science. The strengths and weaknesses of this approach will be considered, with particular attention placed on the mechanics of doing case studies.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Every student is expected to do all the reading and attend all the class meetings. Each student is also expected to participate in seminar discussions. Grades will be based on classroom participation (33%), and two seven-page papers (33% each).

The papers will be due at the beginning of class on March 3 and March 10. We will discuss the specific book assigned for those class meetings. Each paper should be double-spaced, with 1-inch margins, and utilize a standard font size.

The following books – all in paperback-- are available for purchase at the Seminary Coop Bookstore:

-- Alan F. Chalmers, What Is This Thing Called Science? (Hackett Publishing)
-- John Gerring, Social Science Methodology (Cambridge)
-- Gary King, Robert Keohane, and Sidney Verba, Designing Social Inquiry (Princeton)
-- Robert D. Putnam, Making Democracy Work (Princeton)
-- Stephen Van Evera, Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science (Cornell)

All of the articles and book chapters with ** next to them are on 2-hour reserve at Regenstein Library, and on E-reserve at Regenstein Library.

I will send the following document as an e-mail attachment to the students in the class.

Alexander Downes, Targeting Civilians in War (unpublished Ph.D. dissertation)

COURSE OUTLINE

1. January 7: Organizational Meeting and Introduction

2. January 14: Basic Epistemological Issues

   -- Chalmers, What Is This Thing Called Science? read all.

3. January 21: Case Studies and Theory

-- King, Keohane, and Verba, Designing Social Inquiry, read all.


-- Arend Lijphart, “Comparative Politics and the Comparative Method,” American Political Science Review 65, No. 3 (September 1971), pp. 682-93.**

5. February 4: Case Studies and Testing Causal Logics


-- Bruce Russett, “International Behavior Research: Case Studies and Cumulation,” in Russett, ed., Power and Community in World Politics (San Francisco: Freeman, 1974), chap. 1.**


6. February 11: Path Dependency


7. February 18: Critiques and Rejoinders


8. February 25: Case Studies in the Big Picture

-- Gerring, Social Science Methodology, read all.

9. March 3: Doing Case Studies-I [PAPER #1 DUE]

-- Downes, Targeting Civilians in War, read all.

10. March 10: Doing Case Studies-II [PAPER #2 DUE]

-- Putnam, Making Democracy Work, read all.