

Contents

INTRODUCTION	1
1. HYPOTHESES, LAWS, AND THEORIES: A USER'S GUIDE	7
What Is a Theory?	7
What Is a Specific Explanation?	15
What Is a Good Theory?	17
How Can Theories Be Made?	21
How Can Theories Be Tested?	27
Strong vs. Weak Tests; Predictions and Tests	30
Helpful Hints for Testing Theories	35
How Can Specific Events Be Explained?	40
Methodology Myths	43
2. WHAT ARE CASE STUDIES? HOW SHOULD THEY BE PERFORMED?	49
Case Studies in Perspective	50
Testing Theories with Case Studies	55
Creating Theories with Case Studies	67
Inferring Antecedent Conditions from Case Studies	71
Testing Antecedent Conditions with Case Studies	73
Explaining Cases	74
Strong vs. Weak Tests; Predictions and Tests	75
Interpreting Contradictory Results	76
Case-Selection Criteria	77

3. WHAT IS A POLITICAL SCIENCE DISSERTATION?	89
4. HELPFUL HINTS ON WRITING A POLITICAL SCIENCE DISSERTATION	97
Topic Selection	97
Organization	99
Your Dissertation Prospectus	99
Your Introductory Chapter	100
Your Concluding Chapter	103
Study Design and Presentation	103
Writing	106
Style	108
Vetting	109
Your Abstract	111
Dealing with your Dissertation Committee	111
Dealing with Your Head, Your Family, and Your Friends	112
How to Learn More about How to Write a Dissertation	113
5. THE DISSERTATION PROPOSAL	115
6. PROFESSIONAL ETHICS	117
APPENDIX: HOW TO WRITE A PAPER	123
FURTHER READING	129
INDEX	135

GUIDE TO METHODS
FOR STUDENTS OF
POLITICAL SCIENCE

