PAI 705 Research Design for IR Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_KEY\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Exam 2 Spring 2017

Exam is 15 points. There are 10 questions. Each question is worth 1.5 points. If there are sub questions, each part is worth an equal share of the 1.5 points.

1. Match Experiment Design

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| Experiment Design | Write Matching Letter | Description |
| Panel with Demoralization | E | 1. I evaluate a treatment and a control with one round of surveys after the intervention has been completed. |
| One group pretest posttest design. | F | 1. I evaluate the treated group following administration of the treatment. |
| Panel with Maturation / passage of time | D | 1. Investigates what effect pretest may have on posttest outcome. |
| Solomon four group design | C | 1. A threat to internal validity of my panel random survey sample of eating habits for youth age 10-14 that has been going on for 4 years. |
| Static group comparison | A | 1. The attrition / refusal rate in my control is 3 times larger than in my treatment after 2 years of survey work. |
| One group case study | B | 1. Two survey rounds on a given treated sample with no control sample. |

1. Writing survey questions.
   1. What is the main problem with the following question:

Do you agree we should legalize marijuana consumption, which is completely harmless and has major medical potential? Yes No

Biased / leading question.

* 1. What is the main problem with the following question:

The I81 viaduct should be torn down, that surface area turned into a theme park that covers underground tunnels conveying 8 lanes of traffic in each direction underneath the SUNY Upstate hospital complex in Syracuse.

Strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Multi-barreled question.

* 1. What is the main problem with the following question:

I do not agree that we should impose sanctions on European countries who do not vote to leave the European Union. Agree Disagree Undecided

Too many negatives.

* 1. What is the main problem with the following question:

How old are you?

🗆 Under 18

🗆 18 to 45

🗆 45 to 55

🗆 Over 55

Somebody who is 45 would tick two boxes. Should be mutually exclusive.

1. Road to Results.
   1. How is monitoring different from evaluation?

There are different ways to answer this. One is that monitoring is ongoing and evaluation is periodic. Another is that monitoring is tracking what you are doing and making sure you are achieving what you planned to achieve, evaluation is looking at the ‘why’ are you doing these activities.

Look in lecture notes 13 table 1.2 for a few of the contrasts you could draw.

* 1. What are performance indicators and what role do they play in project monitoring?

Performance indicators. Things that can be measured that allow you to assess whether an outcome or impact is being produced. A variable that allows the verification of changes in the development intervention or shows results relative to what was planned.

4. Research Methods.

a. What is meant by ‘negative case analysis’?

Negative case analysis is when you have an initial theory about why you see the patterns in the observations that you observe. It is a form of analytical induction that centers on cases that do not fit easily into the conceptual categories you have used according to the original theory. It leads to revision and refinement of the theory and concepts as you redraw your conceptual distinctions to better encompass all observations.

b. Is negative case analysis inductive or deductive? Explain.

It has an element of deductive in that you start with a theory, but more accurately it is inductive as you are taking the cases and based on them you are reformulating the theory. So for the most part the negative case analysis draws on the observations to develop (redevelop) the theory.

5. “The Road to Results”.

a. What are the four purposes of evaluation?

From lecture notes 13

Ethical. Reporting to political leaders and citizens what has been done and what has been achieved. Transparency, accountability, democracy.

• Managerial. Rationalize financial and human resources devoted to different kinds of tasks.

• Decisional. Information needed to decide whether to expand, contract, replicate, terminate…

• Educate and motivate. Explain to people inside and out of the program / policy / project what is being done and to what extent it is reaching its objectives.

b. What are the benefits of conducting an evaluation?

We can identify what kind of impact we are having. We can compare that to what we said our impacts would be to track progress and identify unintended outcomes. We can see if it is impacting people differently in different places. We can see if it impacting different kinds of people differently.

6. Grounded Theory Approach.

a. Describe the grounded theory approach.

Core elements of the grounded theory approach is that it is very inductive. It is also very comparative. You have cases before you and you develop a theory by looking at patterns and generating theories about the patterns that you are seeing. Key elements are sampling, asking questions, and making comparisons. Emergent theory you are development is seen as a provisional understanding that is subject to revision. It does not think reviewing the literature and building on existing theory is helpful, instead it can blind you and limit your understanding.

1. Explain the position the grounded theory takes to reviewing the theoretical literature on a research topic prior to conducting field research.

As noted above, it discourages looking at the existing theoretical literature before interrogating and comparing the cases in the data. Grounded theory warns that existing theory and literature can blind you from seeing what is trying to emerge from your observations. The data should lead you to the theory.

7. In discussion of types of evaluations one could conduct, we talked about three types of evaluations that have different objectives and timing in the course of a project being implemented. What are the names, objectives, and timing of each type of evaluation?

From lecture notes 13:

Prospective evaluation. Assess the likely outcomes of a proposed project, program, or policy at the start of a project. Trying to predict the likely impact of the item under consideration. Can be an ex ante evaluation. What do we want to do.

Formative evaluation. Process evaluation. Looking at the way in which a program, policy, or program is being implemented during the life of the project. A midpoint evaluation is a kind of formative evaluation. A focus on implementation and improvement. Are we doing what we said we would do / are we doing the right things / are we doing things right?

Summative evaluation. Outcome, or impact evaluation. End of an intervention / when an intervention is mature to determine the extent to which the anticipated outcomes were realized. A focus on results. Contrasting baseline with endline information. What did we achieve, why did we achieve or not achieve what we planned on, and what can we learn from this?

8. Qualitative Research.

a. Describe what it means to be a participant observer in qualitative research.

You are interacting with the group you are studying by being at least partially a member of the social interaction. You are actively participating in the social live and social interactions of people, but you are observing them and recording your impressions of their behavior. You have an objective of developing understanding and using insights gained from your participation to use as raw material for social science research.

b. What is a focus group, what are three advantages of using them for research and what are three disadvantages?

A focus group is bringing together a group of people and interviewing them as a group using qualitative methods. You have a set of questions you want to ask and they are appropriate for structured discussion.

Advantages and disadvantages. There are a set listed in lecture notes three. Some advantages are that they are a more natural social interaction. It is fast. It gets multiple points of view on a given issue. Some disadvantages are that it can get sidetracked by participants, it gives you a transcript of a discussion that will need work to analyze and categorize, it also requires more coordination to get multiple people at a specific place at a specific time.

1. What is an emic view and what is an etic view in qualitative research?

Emic is taking the point of view / worldview of the people you are studying. Etic is taking the outsider view, looking at the people you are studying from either an attempt at an objective stance or in awareness that you see things in a way given the worldview from where you come from.

9. Regression

a. What is one name commonly assigned to y as a description of what kind of variable is it?

There is a whole table of them in the notes. One example; dependent variable.

b. What is one name commonly assigned to an ‘X’ variable as a description of what kind of variable is it?

There is a table of them in the notes. One example; independent variable.

* 1. Identify one of the assumptions about u that we use in regression analysis.

U is i.i.d.. The expected value of the independent variables correlation with the unobserved term is zero, the expected value of the unobserved term is zero. Any one of these would do.

* 1. If y is the outcome of a yes – no question, with yes=1 and no=1, what is one regression model we could use to investigate the influence of different independent variables on responses, and what assumption are we making about the distribution of the u term if we use this model?

Logit or Probit would do. Logit assumes u are distributed logistic, probit assumes u are distributed normal.

10. Open or close ended.

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| Do you know people who have been blocked from entering the United States by a border wall with Mexico?  Yes No | Open **Closed** |
| How many times have you discussed a border wall with Mexico with family and friends?   1. 0 times 2. 1-2 times 3. 3-10 times 4. More than 10 times   98. Don't know  99. Prefer not to say | Open  **Closed** |
| Please tell me about any border wall issues you have heard about or experienced. | **Open**  Closed |
| Have you ever seen a border wall?  Yes No I don't remember I don't want to say | Open  **Closed** |
| Does the United States share a border with Costa Rica?  Yes No I don't remember I don't want to say | Open  **Closed** |