Instructor:
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Course Description and Objectives:
This course is designed to enhance the research skills of graduate students as a social scientist. The course will focus on the logic and practice of case study method and process tracing, which is a method employed to identify and test causal mechanisms in qualitative case studies. In the first part of the course, the strengths and weakness of case study method, various types of case study, and case selection techniques will be considered. The second part of the course will deal with the inferential logic of process tracing. This part will also introduce various types of (e.g., theory testing, theory building, outcome explaining) and approaches to process tracing (e.g., traditional vs. Bayesian approaches). The goals of this course are to provide students with the skills that are necessary to: 1) read, understand and evaluate the academic literature that uses case study and process tracing; 2) design and conduct a decent case study research and process tracing. After attending this course, the students will not only learn when and how to conduct case study and process tracing but also increase their awareness of the strengths and weaknesses of these research methods and techniques.

Course Format:
This is a five-day intensive course. Each day, there will be 4 hours of class meeting. From Monday to Thursday, we will have intensive lectures and discussions on various aspects of case study method and process tracing. On Friday, we will analyze some examples of best practice, and have some in-class exercises. In addition, the students, who would like to get detailed feedback on their own research, will be able to present their research on the final day of the course. Students can present either a research proposal, research design or an ongoing research project.

Course Schedule:

Day 1 (Monday):
- Key concepts: observation, case, case study
- Advantages and disadvantages of case study method

Day 2 (Tuesday):
- Designing case study
  - Single vs. comparative case study
  - Case selection
- Methods of case selection
- Data collection
Techniques
Modes of analysis
Validity

Day 3 (Wednesday):
- Defining process tracing
- Limits and strengths of process tracing
- Types of process tracing
  - Theory testing
  - Theory building
  - Outcome explaining

Day 4 (Thursday):
- Approaches to process tracing
  - Traditional
  - Bayesian

Day 5 (Friday):
- Some examples of best practice
- Exercises
- Presentations

Course Readings:

CASE STUDY

The followings are recommended for the case study part of the course. You can consider acquiring the books:

Books:

**Articles and Book Chapters:**

**PROCESS TRACING:**
On process tracing, the following readings are recommended.

**Books:**

**Articles and Book Chapters:**


