

MEMORANDUM

To: PS 585 (Intro. to Research Methods) Students

From: Instructor Ray Block, Jr.

Date: Fall, 2003

Re: Midterm Review

Preparing for the Midterm

What the Exam will Look Like: The midterm examination will consist of three sections. In one of the sections, you will be asked to define vocabulary terms and possibly compare different terms to one another. Another section will cover variables and their level(s) of measurement. A third section will be ask you to write short answer responses to issues related to research design. Each section will be worth five (5) points, and the midterm is worth 15 total points.

What you should Study For: Below is a brief outline of 1) things you should know for the midterm, and 2) where in your notes/textbook to find this information. There are two key tips for doing well on this exam. First, make sure that you answer every part of the question. Second, this exam will test how well you *apply the things you've learned* and not how good you are at *regurgitating information*.

| WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW | WHERE TO FIND THAT INFORMATION |
|--|---|
| Section I: Housekeeping | |
| <i>Science, Social Science, and Political Science:</i> | |
| ○ The “Hard” and “Soft” sciences | ○ Lecture: Sci., Social Sci., and PoliSci ○ Johnson, <i>et al.</i> chapter 2 |
| ○ The Scientific Method | ○ Lecture: Sci., Social Sci., and PoliSci |
| Section II: The Building Blocks of Social Scientific Research | |
| <i>Theory Building:</i> | |
| ○ Theories and Models | ○ Lecture: Concepts Variables & Hypotheses |
| ○ Concepts and Variables | ○ Lecture: Concepts Variables & Hypotheses ○ Johnson, <i>et al.</i> chapter 3 |
| ○ Hypotheses and Causality | ○ Lecture: Concepts Variables & Hypotheses ○ Johnson, <i>et al.</i> chapter 3 |
| ○ Induction and Deduction | ○ Lecture: Concepts Variables & Hypotheses ○ Johnson, <i>et al.</i> chapter 2 |
| <i>Measurement:</i> | |
| ○ Conceptualization and Operationalization | ○ Lecture: Measurement ○ Johnson, <i>et al.</i> chapter 4 |
| ○ Levels of measurement | ○ Lecture: Measurement ○ Johnson, <i>et al.</i> chapter 4 |
| ○ Reliability and Validity | ○ Lecture: Measurement ○ Johnson, <i>et al.</i> chapter 4 |
| Section III: Research Design | |
| ○ Internal Validity | ○ Lectures: Experimental and Non-Experimental Designs ○ Johnson, <i>et al.</i> chapter 5 |
| ○ External Validity | ○ Lectures: Experimental and Non-Experimental Designs ○ Johnson, <i>et al.</i> chapter 5 |