POLS 205: Concepts for Midterm Exam
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The questions on your midterm examination will assume your familiarity with the following concepts. You should feel comfortable using these concepts in discussing, critiquing, or suggesting improvements to an example research project.

variable
independent variable
dependent variable
confounder
spurious correlation
causation
operationalization
hypothesis
hypothesis testing
measurement
data
parsimony
evidence
scope
explanatory power
predictive power
cases
scientific method
experimental methods
observational methods
replication
naturalism
empiricism
contingent effects
subjectivity
deterministic
probabilistic
omitted variables
generality
falsifiability
research question
normative
concept
qualitative methods
quantitative methods
time series
cross-section
time series cross-section
unit of analysis
covary
correlation
null hypothesis
alternative hypothesis
confidence level
formal theory
random variable
noise
direct relationship
indirect relationship
conditional relationship
reciprocal causation
inference
fundamental problem
of causal inference
unit homogeneity
conditional independence
controlled experiment
matching
ecological fallacy
treatment
control
randomized assignment
internal validity
external validity
pre-test
post-test
intent to treat
measurement error
testing effects
case-control experiments
average treatment effect
local average treatment effect
longitudinal design
natural experiment
field experiment
small N
large N
case study
critical case study
plausibility probe
direct observation
indirect observation
participant observer
non-participant observer
overt observation
covert observation
structured observation
unstructured observation
archival data
survey data
ethnography
thick description
method of agreement
method of differences
necessary condition
sufficient condition
selection bias
selection on
dependent variable
shadow cases
process tracing
validity of measurement
face validity
content validity
construct validity
reliability of measurement
intercoder reliability
continuous variable
discrete variable
nominal variable
ordered variable
binary variable