I. Introduction & Logistics
   A. Introduce selves, contact info, office hours (by appt)
      1. Allen Hicken (ahicken@umich.edu)
      2. Rob Franzese (franzese@umich.edu)
   B. Overview of today
      1. Course description, syllabus, logistics
      2. Brief intellectual history of (sub)field
      3. Intro comparative methods (and debates therein)
      4. Key concepts & vocabulary

II. Course description
   A. Reading (tons) & discussion (lots)
      1. Study grps, outlines, skim, read strategically, abstracts
      2. Participate, expect to be called, no exceptions
   B. Writing: 3 “literature reviews with a slant”
      1. Recognize & distill arguments
         a) Dependent & independent variable
         b) Argument
         c) Nature, structure, & key aspects of evidence
         d) Gist of conclusion & implications
      2. Add something(s)
         a) Argument: Synthesis, extension, critique, etc.
         b) Evidence: New cases (space, time), implications, methods, etc.

III. Brief Intellectual History of (Sub)Field
   A. By Approach, in 2x2 Tables (work-horse of PolSci, from Jan-Erik Lane & Svante Ersson. Politics and Society in Western Europe, Ch. 1,
pp. 15-51. [See also first few sections of Rob’s notes for PS460, available from his web page, address above.]

B. By question (topic), method, and core arguments (handout from Jennifer Widner’s PS641 notes)

IV. Intro to comparative method(s) and debates therein


D. The PPE Approach


V. Key Concepts & Vocabulary

A. Dependent & Independent Variables

B. Conceptualization, Operationalization, Measurement, Specification

C. Assumptions, theories, and models

D. DEFINITIONS

1. Contents
2. Micro-foundations
3. Generality (Scope): no proper nouns!
4. Power (Accuracy)
5. Parsimony
6. Fertility (Widner’s term), Consilience (Olson’s term)
7. Empirical evaluable (Rob’s term), falsifiability (common term)

E. Hypotheses, Observable Implications

F. Selection bias, endogeneity, & causal mis-specification

G. Omitted-variable bias, over-determination, degrees of freedom

H. Validity & reliability; replicability