

# Gov 62 Section 11

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# Gov 62 Update

- ▶ Student Research Workshops
  - ▶ May 1, 3-6pm
    - ▶ Research memos have been submitted
    - ▶ Comments due no later than April 30, 3pm
- ▶ You must arrive 5 minutes early to ensure a prompt start to the workshop.
- ▶ See Prof. Soroka's memo on Canvas

# Gov 62 Update

- ▶ Prospectus
  - ▶ Due Thursday, May 16th, at 5pm
  - ▶ This is a hard deadline!!!
  - ▶ Look for email/Canvas file upload for a few more details after Wednesday

## Discussion questions

- ▶ What is qualitative research?
- ▶ What do we gain from using qualitative methods?
- ▶ How should we evaluate research that uses qualitative methods?

## Discussion questions

- ▶ Should we use a quantitative framework (think KKV) to design/conduct/evaluate qualitative methods?
- ▶ What can we learn from a single case? Should we always try for a comparison?
- ▶ Are there any kinds of methods or strategies we learned about that you find particularly compelling (or not)?

## Three Themes from Gov 62

- ▶ “Diversify”
  - ▶ Diversification of analysis level (macro vs. micro; large-N vs. small-N)
  - ▶ Diversification of evidence type (interviews, archives, etc.)
  - ▶ Diversification of empirical method (regression vs. t-test; quantitative vs. qualitative analysis of a text corpus).
- ▶ “Exploit the gravity of goals”
  - ▶ Almost every research design is suitable for answering some question. So, clearly specify your goals and how your method will achieve them.
  - ▶ (Use readings from the class to help!)
- ▶ “Remember the Comparative Advantage of Qualitative Research”
  - ▶ Qualitative research has a comparative advantage in illustrating causal mechanisms/processes, in generating new ideas/hypotheses, in giving evidence for theories about how people make meaning out of their experiences in the world.

## Your research

- ▶ Imagine that you are talking with a friend or relative at dinner. How would you explain your project?
- ▶ What are some of your next steps after the prospectus? (Or what would some be?)
- ▶ What are some concerns you have going forward?