

Gov 62 Section 5

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Gov 62 Update

- ▶ Short Paper 3 due Friday, March 15 (prompt on Canvas)
- ▶ 5 weeks left for response papers (including tomorrow) - need to submit 4 papers total
- ▶ Today's plan: review natural experiments, discuss exemplary readings

Natural Experiments

- ▶ Three questions:
 - ▶ Why use a natural experiment?
 - ▶ How should we evaluate natural experiments?
 - ▶ What is the role of qualitative research in natural experiments?

Why use a natural experiment?

- ▶ Conditional independence/omitted variable problems (in regression)
- ▶ Design-based research
- ▶ Model simplicity

How should we evaluate natural experiments?

- ▶ Plausibility of as-if random assignment to treatment (confounding)
- ▶ Credibility of causal and statistical models (specifying causal/stochastic process for DGP)
- ▶ Substantive relevance of treatment (generalizability)

Qualitative research

- ▶ Treatment-assignment CPOs
- ▶ Independent-variable CPOs
- ▶ Mechanism CPOs
- ▶ Auxiliary-outcome CPOs
- ▶ Model-validation CPOs