

GV100 Week 05 Quantitative and Formal Approaches to Politics Questions

Lecture:

1. What are the three features of a rational actor?
 - a. Is this definition of rationality convincing?
2. What is the prisoner's dilemma?
3. Can you think of an example of a collective action problem?
4. What are the key differences between private and public goods?
5. Why do collective action problems usually relate to public goods?
6. Can you think of any examples of quantitative political research?

Reading:

7. According to Van Evera, what are the seven features of a good theory?
8. What is the difference between inductive and deductive theory?
 - a. What is retrodiction, and is it more useful than induction and deduction?
9. Do you agree with Van Evera that experiments are not feasible in political science?
10. What is a null hypothesis?
11. Do you agree with Shepsle that we should aim to have a science of politics?
12. What is the relationship between utility, preferences, preference ordering, and transitivity in rationality as outlined by Shepsle?
13. What is the difference between certainty, risk, and uncertainty, as described by Shepsle?
 - b. How do risk, utility, and costs, relate to each other?
14. According to Shepsle, when is rationality less likely to apply?