

POLI 30: Political Inquiry

Heidi McNamara

University of California, San Diego

h1hall@ucsd.edu

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Introductions



Heidi McNamara

Email: h1hall@ucsd.edu

Office Hours: Wed. 11-1

Office: SSB 343

Website: heidimcnamara.com

Grades and Such

- ▶ 40% Four Problem Sets
- ▶ 20% Midterm Exam (April 27th)
- ▶ 30% Final Exam (June 6th)
- ▶ 10% Section
 - ▶ Attendance
 - ▶ Participation
 - ▶ Quizzes

Exercise One

Hypothesis: *The more abundant a country's natural resources, the worse its economic development will be.*

What is the independent variable (IV, or X variable)?

What is the dependent variable (DV, or Y variable)?

What values could these variables take on in a study looking across many countries?

Exercise Two

Hypothesis: *Democracies are less likely to go to war than dictatorships.*

What is the independent variable (IV, or X variable)?

What is the dependent variable (DV, or Y variable)?

What values could these variables take on in a study looking across many countries?

Exercise Three

Hypothesis: *The US economy performs better under Republican presidents.*

What is the IV? DV?

What values could these variables take on in a study looking across time within the US?

What might an intervening variable be?

Exercise Four

Hypothesis: *Americans who get a college degree will earn far more in their lifetimes than those without a degree.*

What is the IV? DV?

What might an intervening variable be?

What possible confounding variable would you worry about, even if you found evidence in support of this hypothesis?