

# SOSC 131-132-133

## Social Science Inquiry

### WHAT CAN I EXPECT FROM THIS SEQUENCE?

SSI focuses first on how to design good research studies; then on how to analyze them statistically, using R; and finally, on how to complete an original research study. The sequence examines how social scientists apply quantitative research methods to understand social phenomenon. For example: Does raising the minimum wage lead to an increase in the unemployment rate? Do employers discriminate against non-white applicants? Do ideological moderates fare better than extremists in US general elections? These questions and more will be considered.



### WHO MIGHT BE A GOOD FIT FOR SSI?

- Students interested in understanding and practicing quantitatively-oriented social science methods and research design
- Students who would like to create a research project as well as write and present a corresponding paper

*“My main takeaways were how to identify different types of experiments and methods, how to determine points of weakness within experiments in terms of internal and external validity, how to use R, and how to approach a broad social science question with all that was mentioned before.”*

- Alyssa Dang '26

### STUDENT TAKEAWAY



### WHAT MAKES SSI DIFFERENT?

- SSI General focuses on quantitative social science methods with special emphasis on experimental and observational research design, causal inference, hypothesis testing, and regression analysis
- SSI Formal Theory focuses on rational choice scholarship, game theory, and public choice models
- SSI Spatial Analysis focuses on quantitative methods that explicitly account for space and the role of location, distance, and interaction