

**Study Questions for January 15:
Comparative Politics and Political Science Methodology**

1. What is “hypothesis testing”? Why is it useful?
2. On page 9, Landman gives examples of several political science studies that make explanatory (or causal) arguments. What are some other examples of explanatory arguments? Think of books or articles you have read in political science or other fields; or suggest an argument of your own.
3. Do you think political science is really a science? How does political science resemble the natural sciences (such as biology, chemistry, or physics)? How is political science different from the natural sciences?
4. What is an independent variable? What is a dependent variable?
5. Return to one of the arguments you came up with for question #2. What are the independent and dependent variables in that example?
6. What are some questions about the Internet that you could investigate through qualitative research?
7. What are some questions about the Internet that you could investigate through quantitative research?