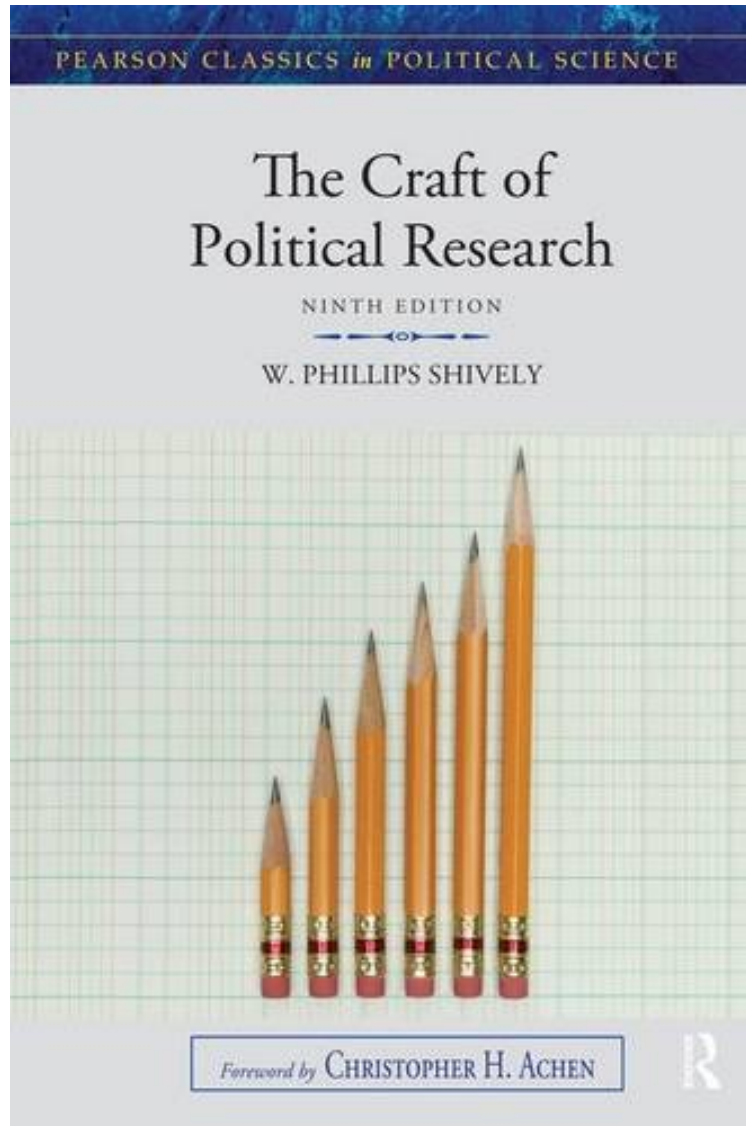


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## The Craft of Political Research (Pearson Classics in Political Science)

W. Phillips Shively

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**W. Phillips Shively : The Craft of Political Research (Pearson Classics in Political Science)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Craft of Political Research (Pearson Classics in Political Science):

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for any undergrad student in polisci methods class. i was taking a method class in grad school and came across this book. it has been redeveloped by the author for several years, so it is a good reference to have. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. ... the rest of my texts on research it's very good. Still, it's a book on researching methods. It's boring. Shively does a good job though. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This book was ordered for a college course. By Mary C 5586 This book was ordered for a college course my daughter was enrolled in. The book is required for the course and ordering from Amazon as opposed to the campus book store saved us a lot of money. My daughter thought the writing was clear and concise and easy to follow. She was pleasantly surprised at how easy it was for her to stay interested in the subject matter and not have her mind wander because she was bored with what she was reading which is often the case with college text books.

The Craft of Political Research immerses readers not only in how political scientists work but also in how ideas produce research questions and guide the selection of research methods. Emphasizing the internal logic of research methods and the collaborative nature of the research process, this slender text explores the design behind interesting questions, problems in measurement and analysis, and key statistical methods. Brief and inexpensive to include in any course, The Craft of Political Research's elegant explanations inspire a big picture understanding of how political scientists explain political reality and encourage students to create their own inventive, original, and bold research work. Features include: Focuses on the big picture of how good research leads to good theories instead of just what research method to use. Provides concise and accessible coverage of key topics, including the nature of research, research design, sampling, statistical analysis, ethics, and more. Includes detailed examples of classic and contemporary political science research to give students models for their own original research.

The Craft of Political Research is just what one hopes for in an undergraduate methods course. It is more theoretically engaged than most such texts, and the conceptual discussion is non-sectarian. Marx and Duverger make an appearance; so do Mancur Olson and Anthony Downs; so do Philip Converse and Robert Putnam. Students will learn that ideas matter, not the statistical software; and they will see that theoretical narrowness is the antithesis of good science. from Christopher H. Achen's Foreword