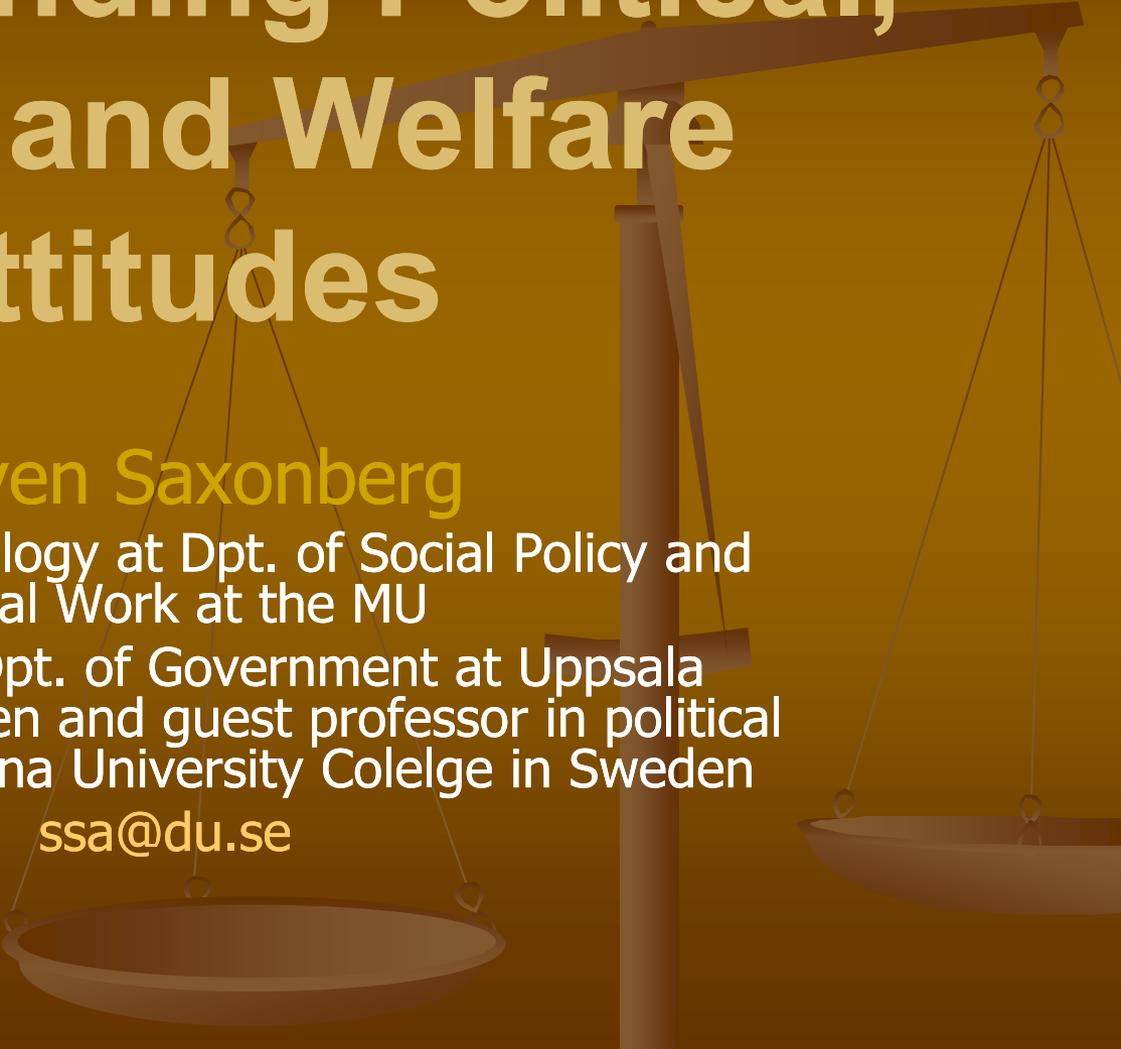


Understanding Political, Social and Welfare Attitudes



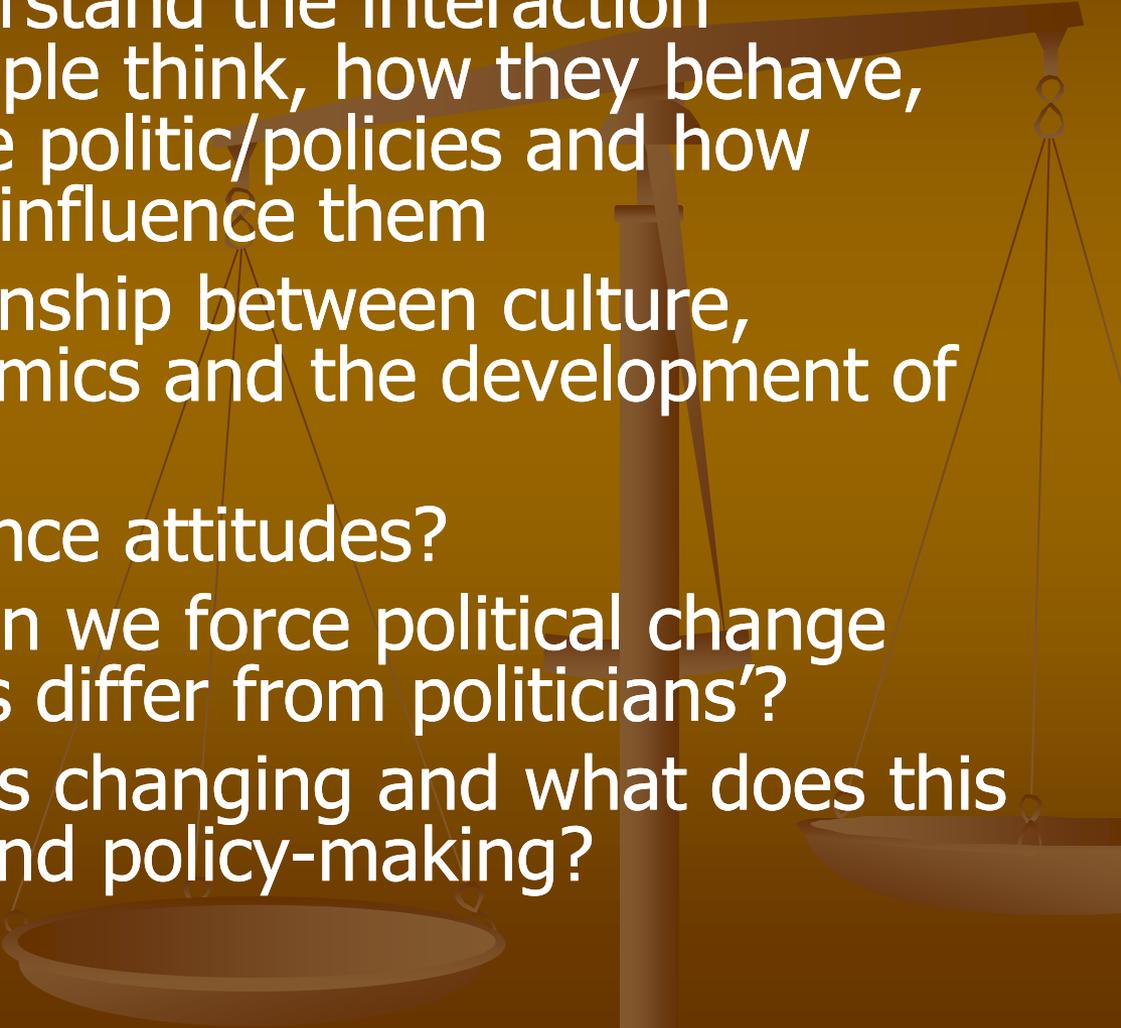
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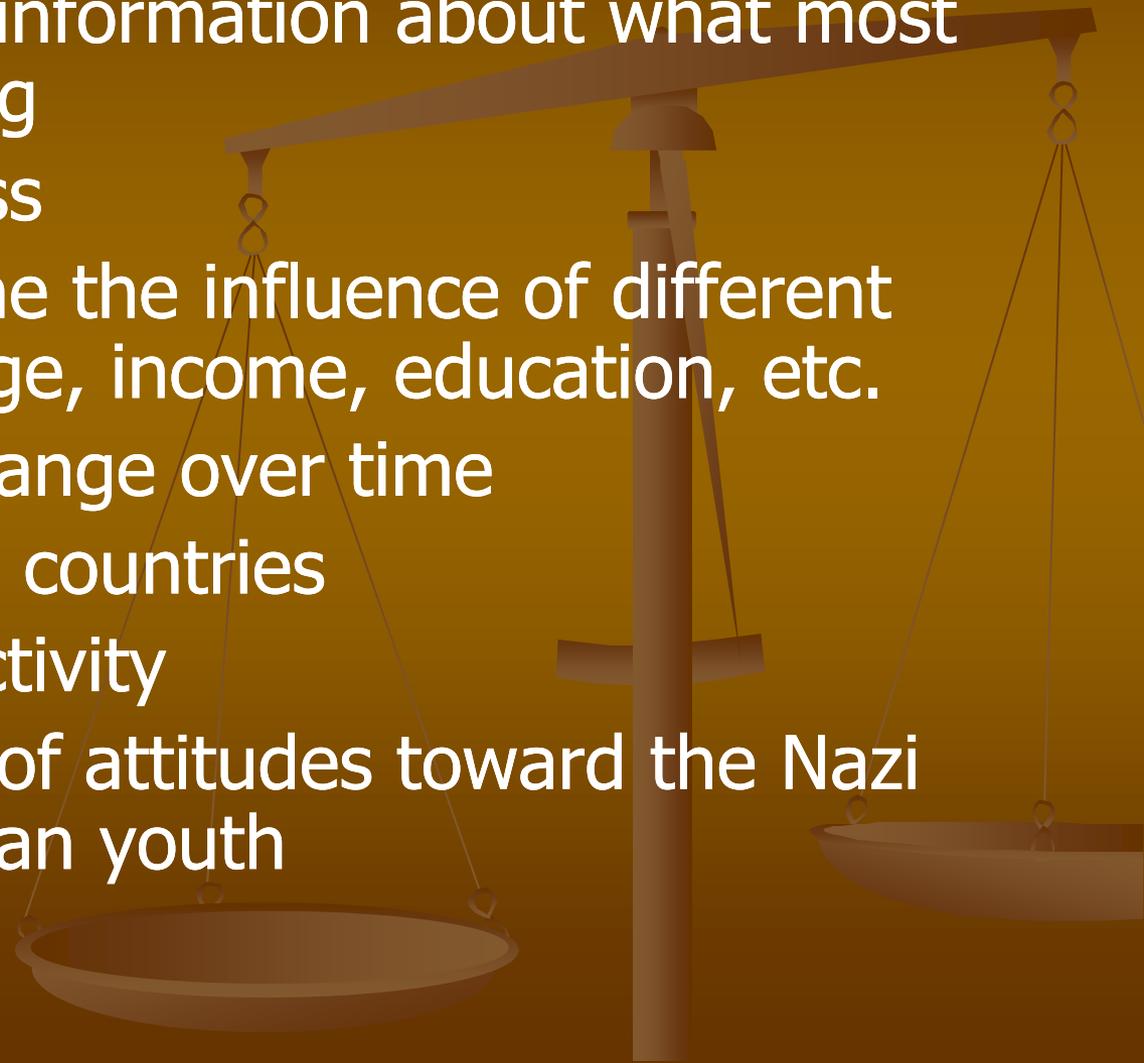
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The Value of Values

- Important to understand the interaction between what people think, how they behave, how they influence politics/policies and how politics/influences influence them
 - What is the relationship between culture, institutions, economics and the development of society?
 - Can policies influence attitudes?
 - In a democracy can we force political change when our attitudes differ from politicians'?
 - How are our values changing and what does this imply for society and policy-making?
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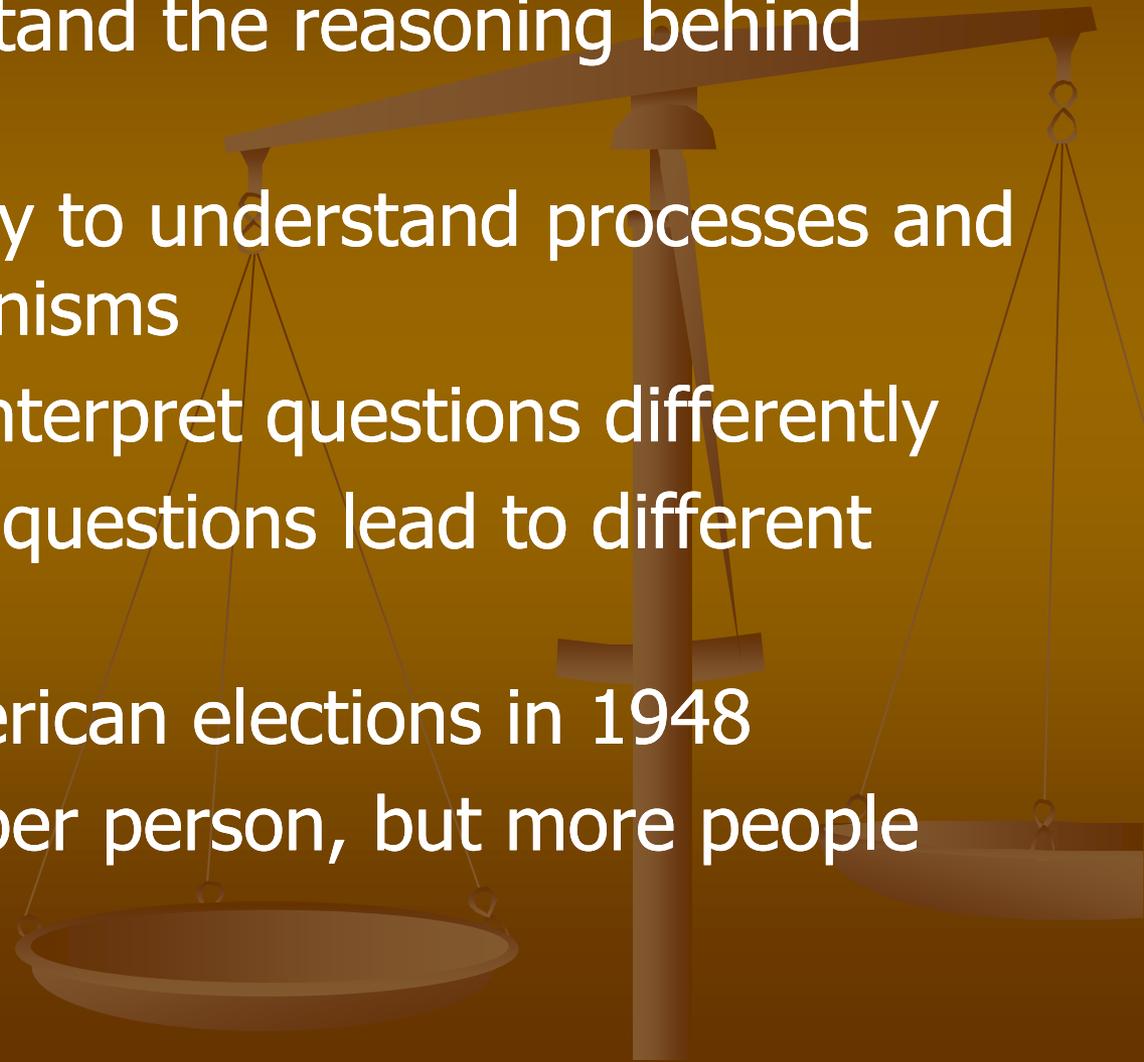
The Importance of Statistics

- Ability to find out information about what most people are thinking
- Representativeness
- Ability to determine the influence of different factors, such as age, income, education, etc.
- Ability to study change over time
- Ability to compare countries
- Less risk of subjectivity
- Example: 4 types of attitudes toward the Nazi past among German youth



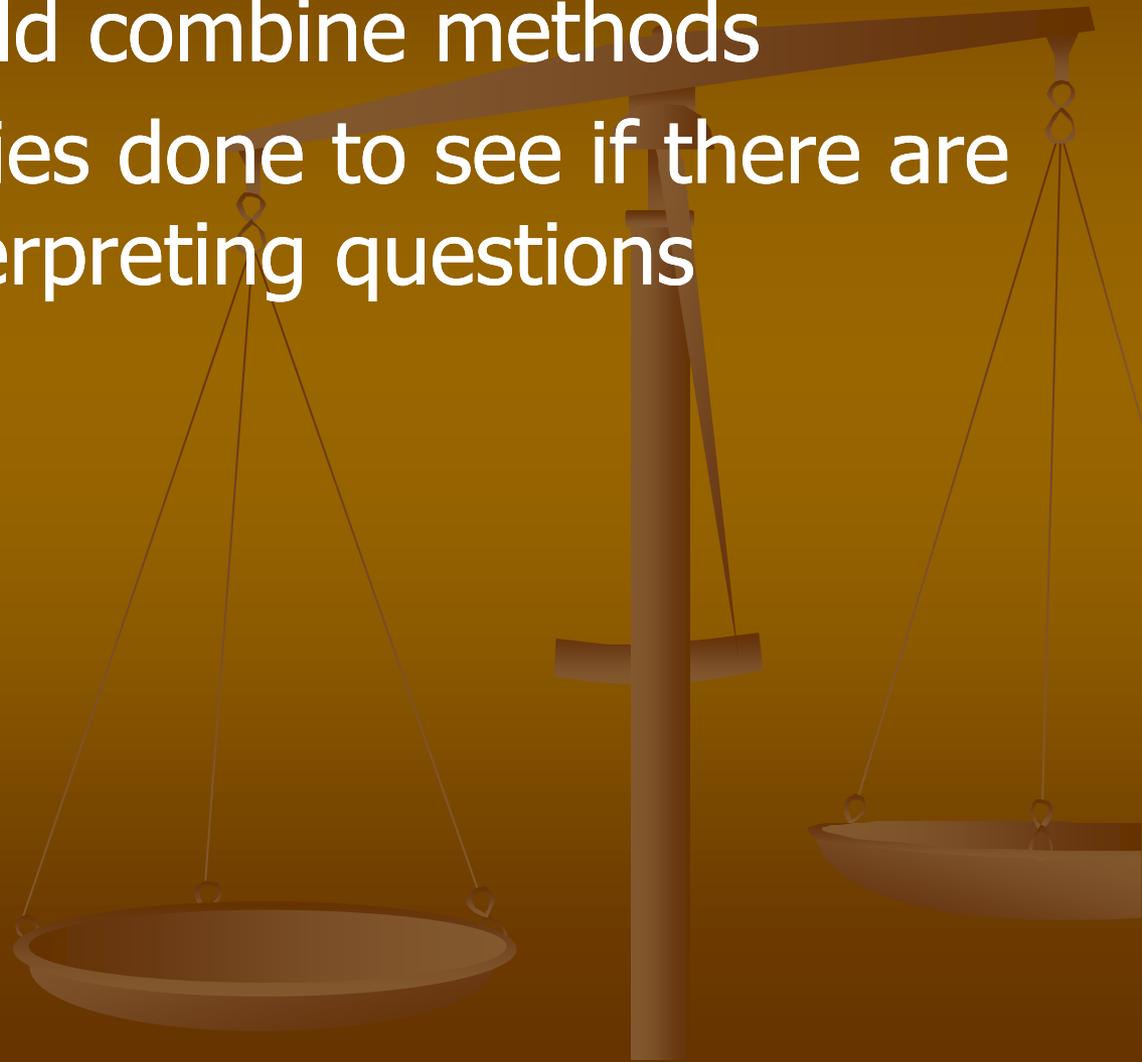
Disadvantages with Statistics

- Difficult to understand the reasoning behind attitudes
- So not always easy to understand processes and underlying mechanisms
- Risk that people interpret questions differently
- Different types of questions lead to different answers
- Example: the American elections in 1948
- Less information per person, but more people

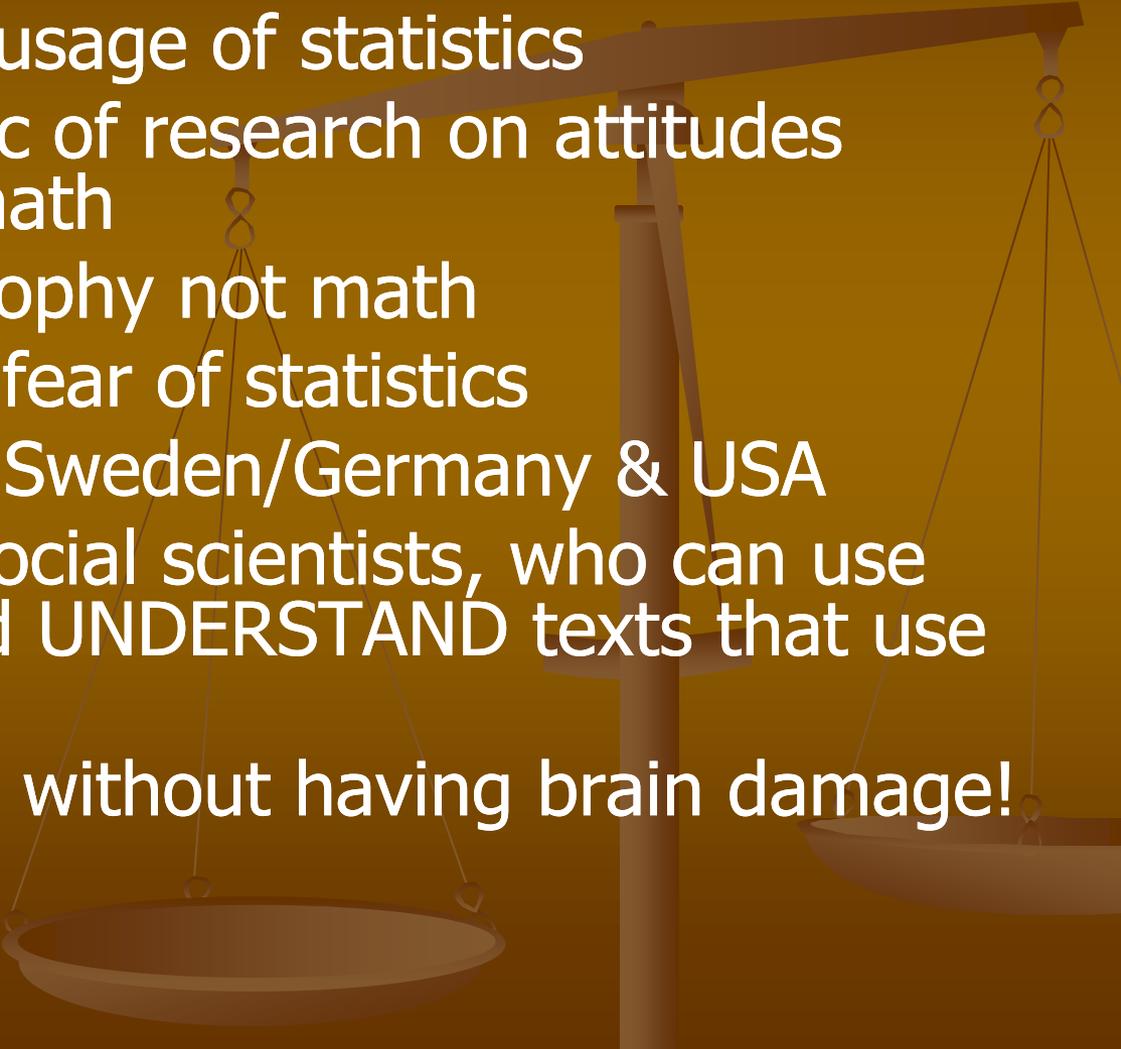


Solutions?

- Ideally we should combine methods
- Often pilot studies done to see if there are problems in interpreting questions

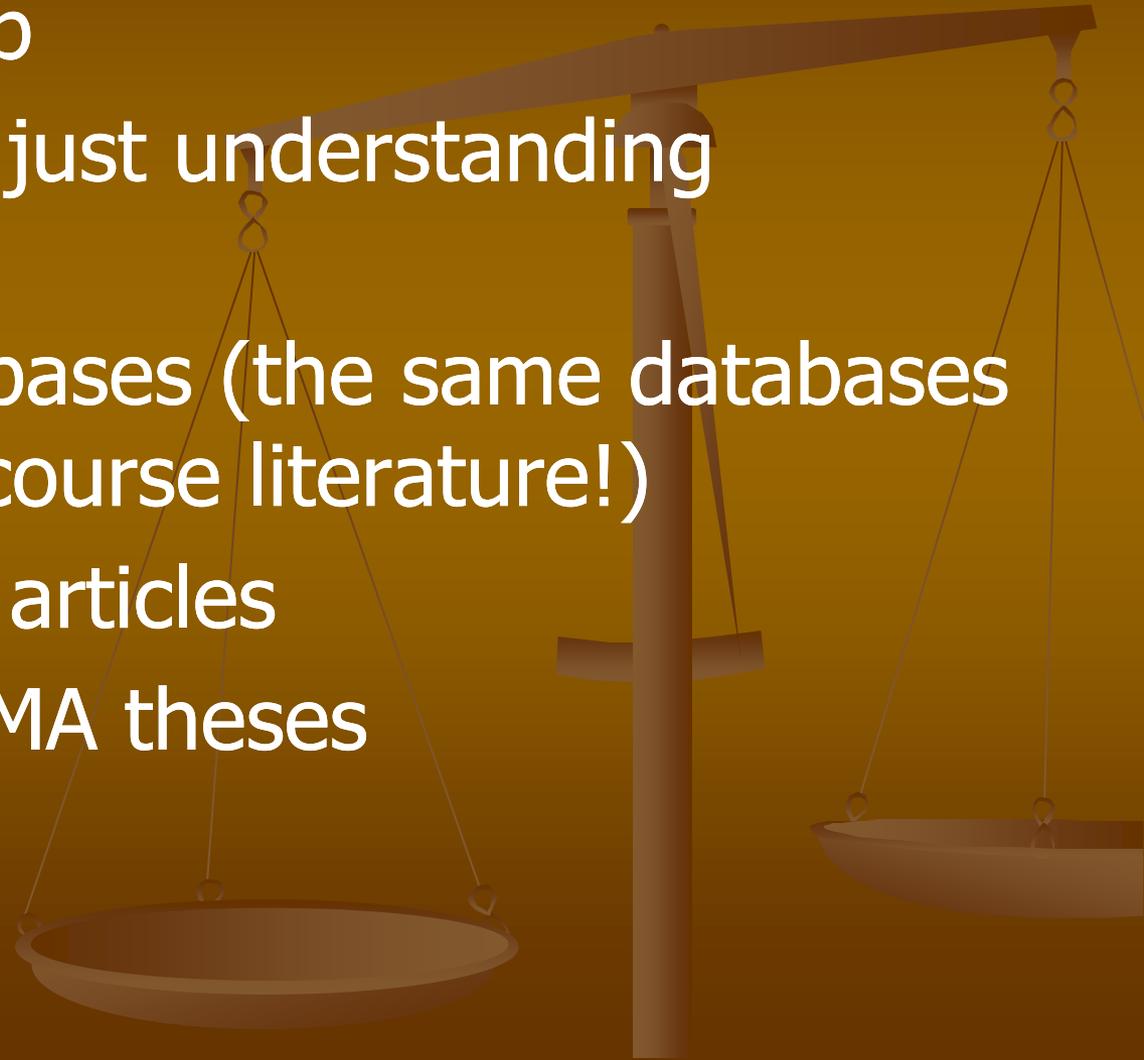


Reasons for having this course

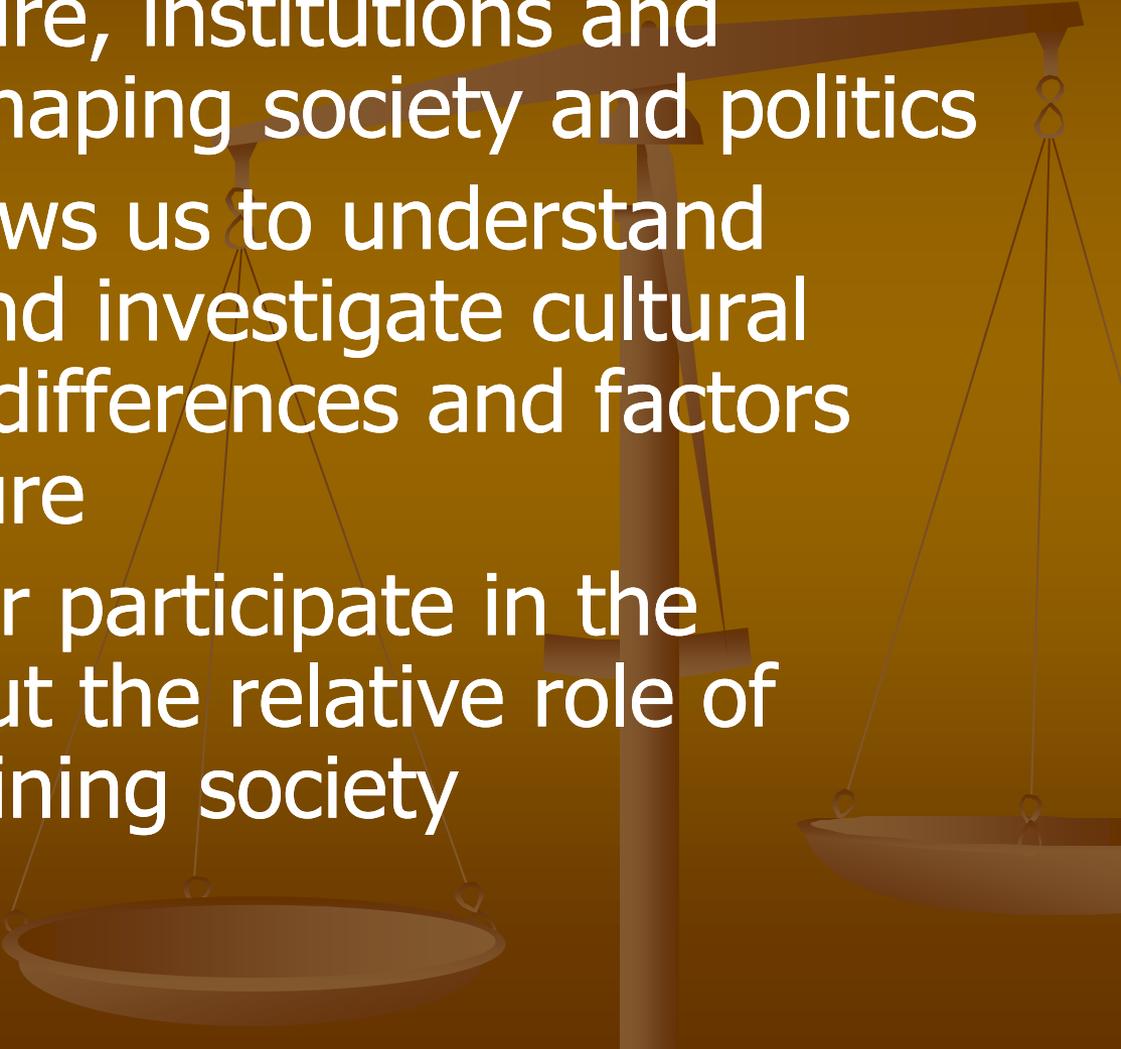
- Building a tradition
 - Showing practical usage of statistics
 - Explaining the logic of research on attitudes without needing math
 - Statistics as philosophy not math
 - Overcoming one's fear of statistics
 - My experiences in Sweden/Germany & USA
 - Becoming better social scientists, who can use more methods and UNDERSTAND texts that use statistics
 - Surviving statistics without having brain damage!
- 

This course plus workshop

- Spring workshop
- Again no math, just understanding statistics
- Work with databases (the same databases as most of the course literature!)
- Write your own articles
- Help with your MA theses

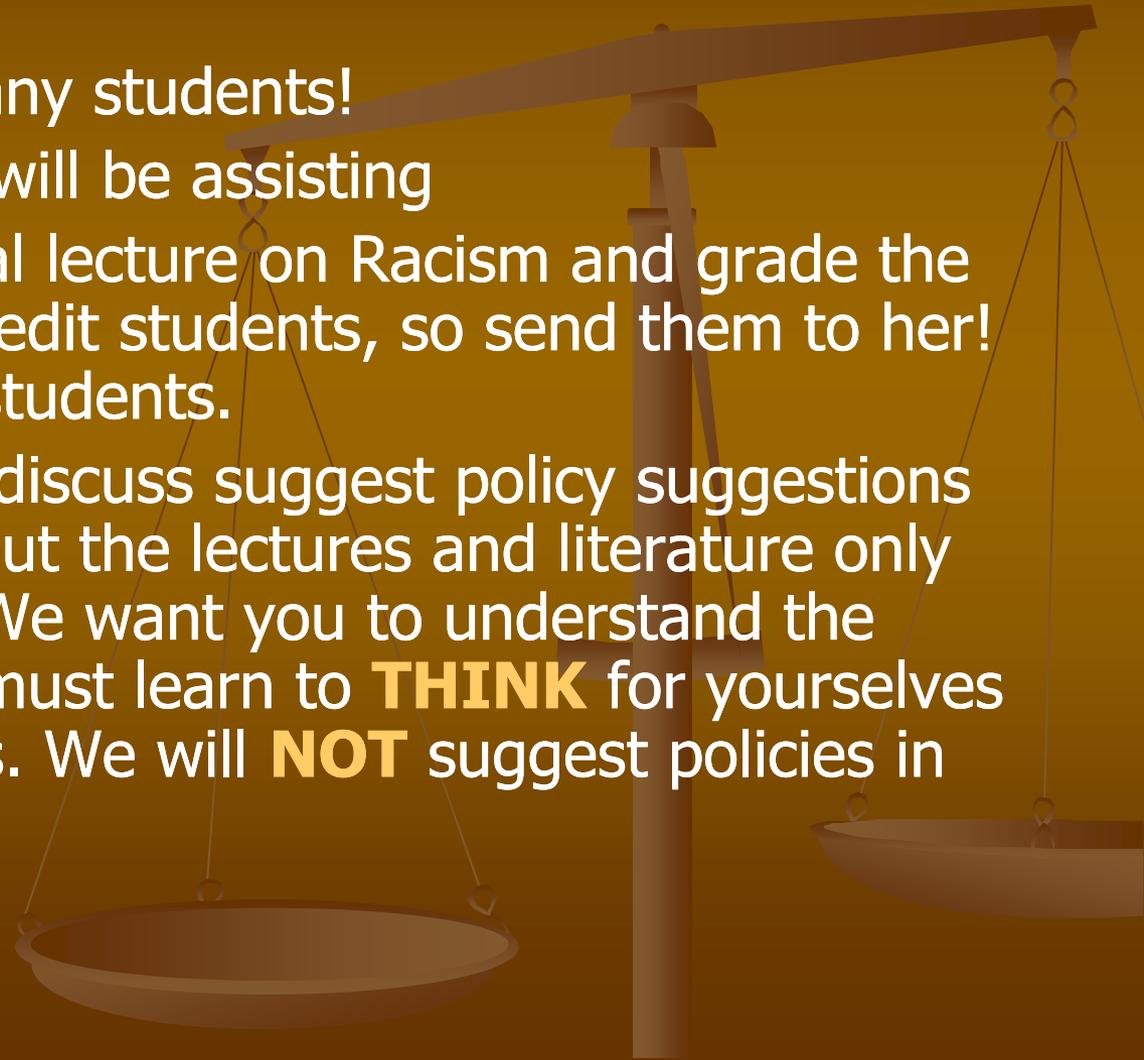


Social Scientific Theme:

- The role of culture, institutions and economics for shaping society and politics
 - Survey data allows us to understand culture better and investigate cultural trends, cultural differences and factors influencing culture
 - So we can better participate in the discussions about the relative role of cultural in explaining society
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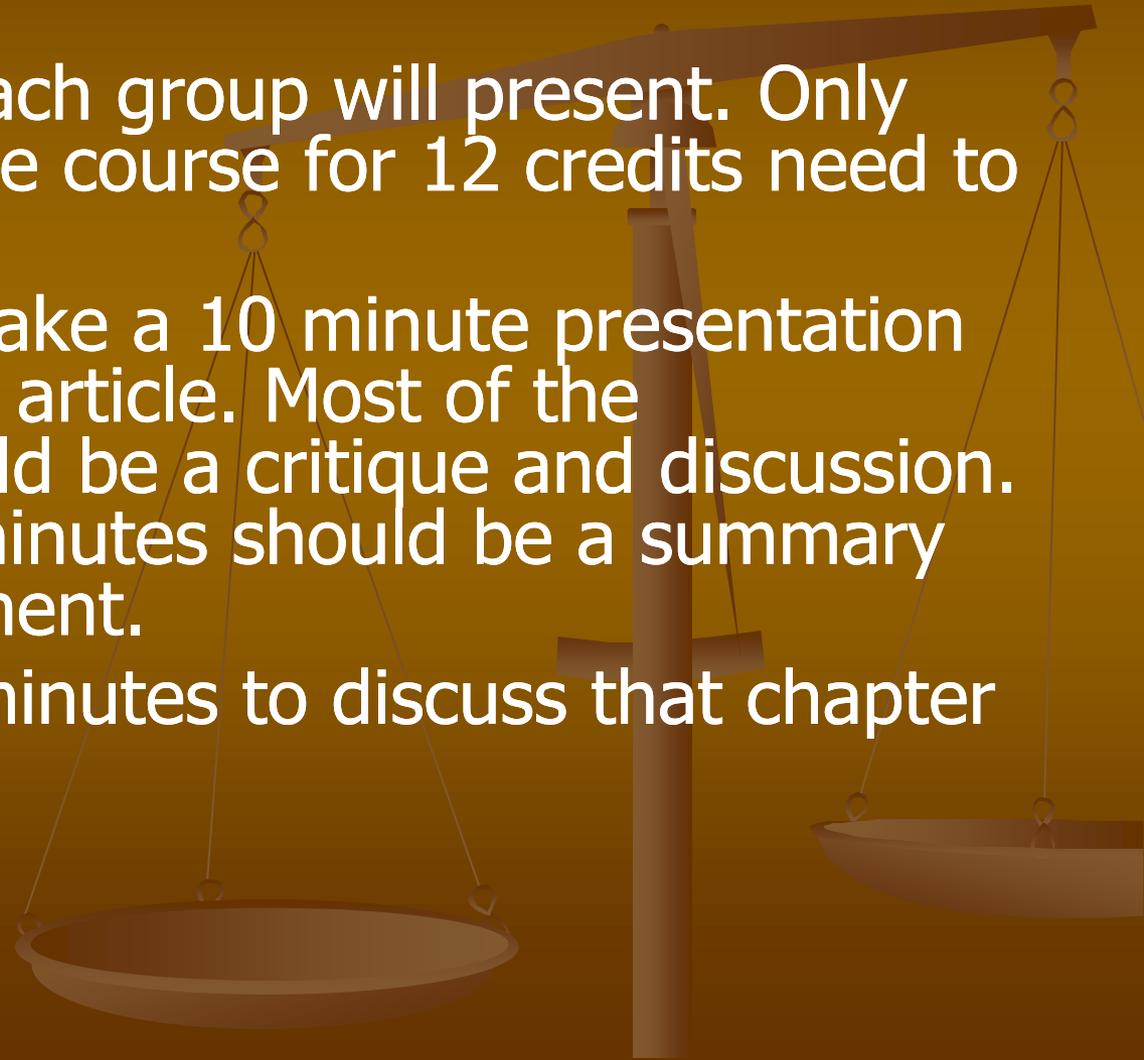
Make up of the course

- 12 and 8 credits
- Did not expect so many students!
- Katerina Vrablikova will be assisting
- She will have the final lecture on Racism and grade the final papers for 12 credit students, so send them to her! I will grade 8 credit students.
- In final papers must discuss suggest policy suggestions based on attitudes, but the lectures and literature only discusses attitudes. We want you to understand the attitudes. Then you must learn to **THINK** for yourselves in suggesting policies. We will **NOT** suggest policies in our lectures.

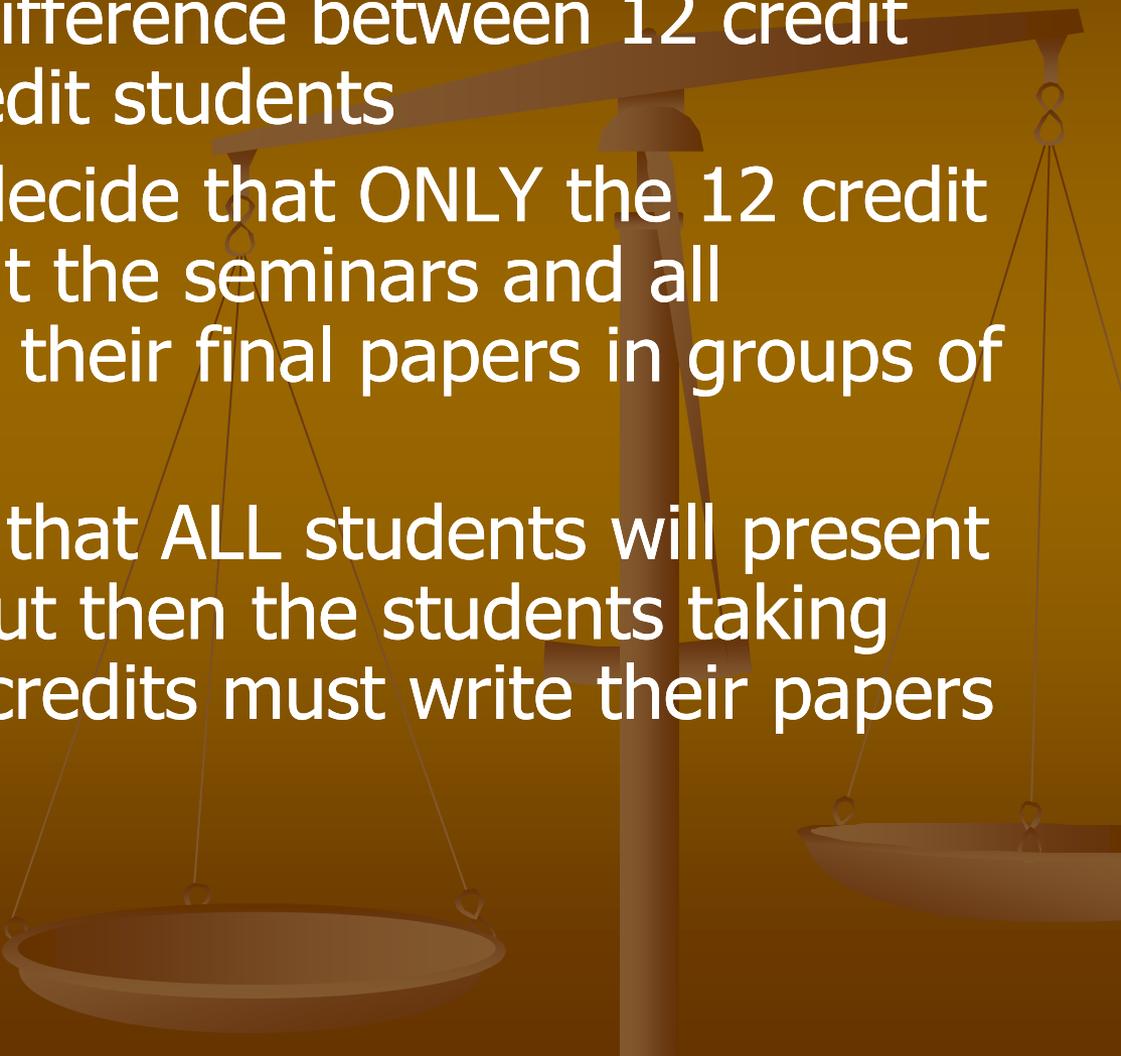


Seminars

- 4 seminar groups
- 3 groups within each group will present. Only students taking the course for 12 credits need to present.
- Each group will make a 10 minute presentation on one chapter or article. Most of the presentation should be a critique and discussion. No more than 5 minutes should be a summary of the main argument.
- Then we have 5 minutes to discuss that chapter or article.

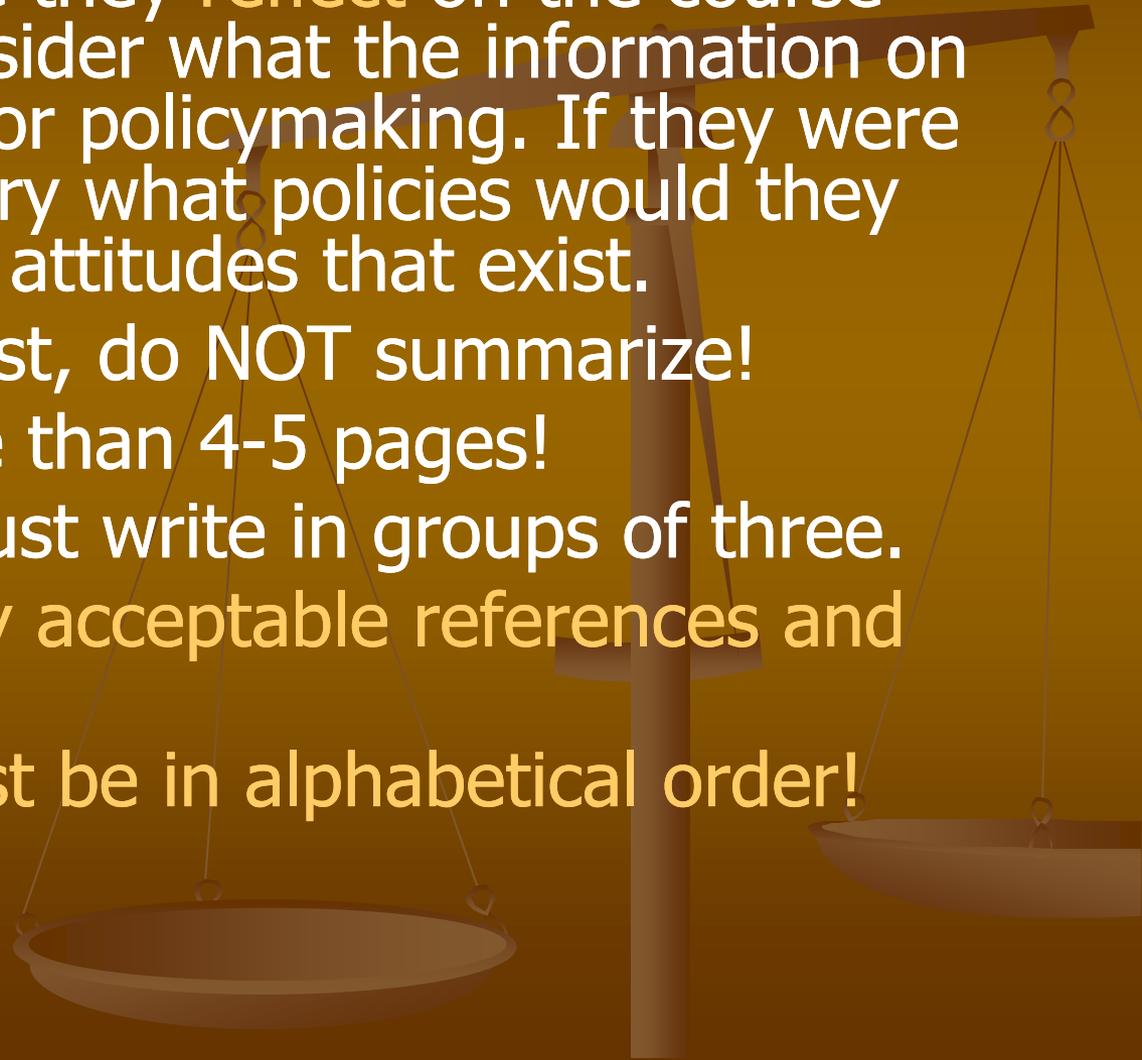


Question on the makeup of the course

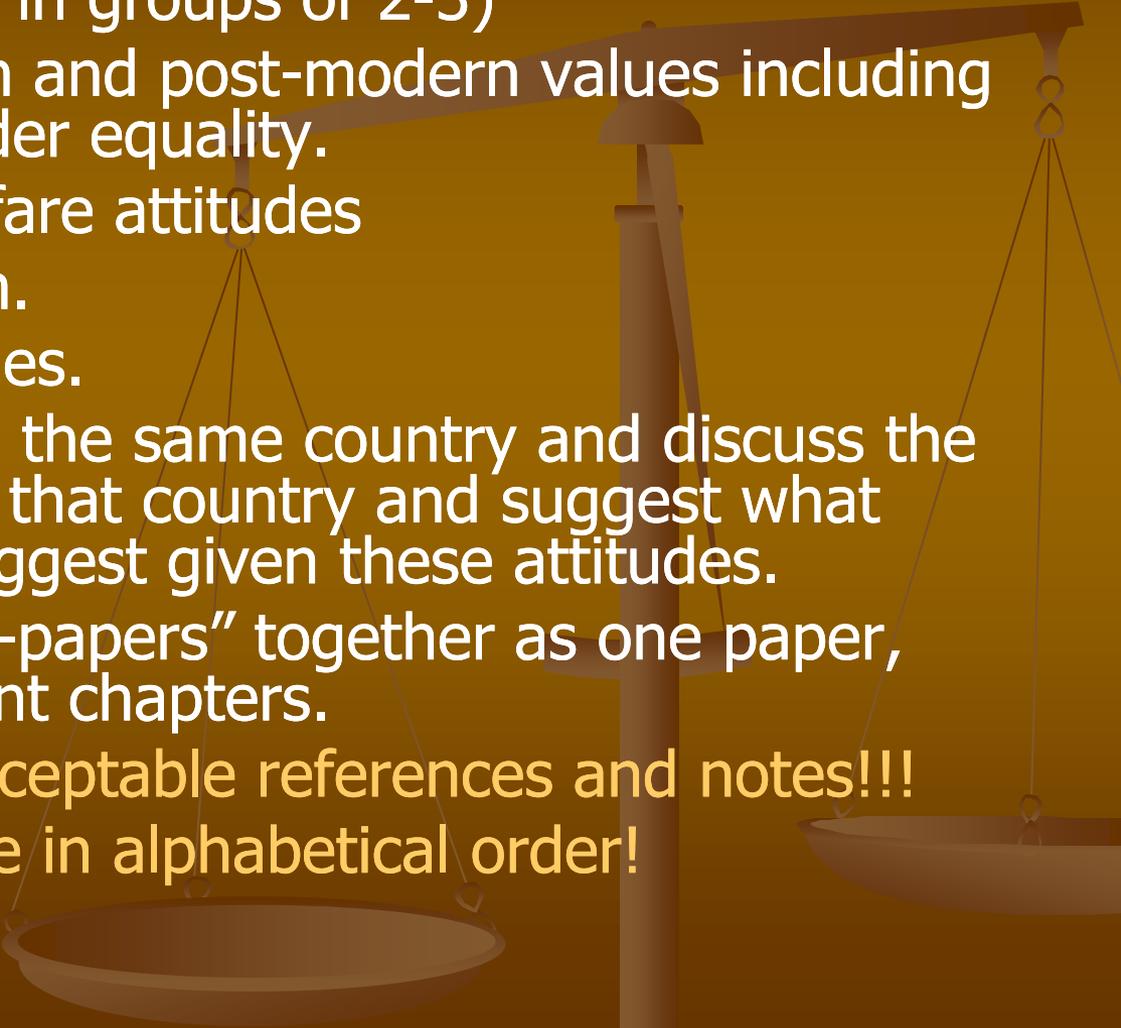
- There must be a difference between 12 credit students and 8 credit students
 - So either we can decide that **ONLY** the 12 credit students present at the seminars and all students can write their final papers in groups of 3.
 - **OR** we can decide that **ALL** students will present at the seminars, but then the students taking the course for 12 credits must write their papers by themselves.
- 

Final Papers: Option 1

- At the end of the course, students will write a short paper where they **reflect** on the course literature and consider what the information on attitudes implies for policymaking. If they were leaders of a country what policies would they suggest given the attitudes that exist.
- Reflect and suggest, do NOT summarize!
- Do not write more than 4-5 pages!
- Other students must write in groups of three.
- Use internationally acceptable references and notes!!!
- Reference list must be in alphabetical order!



Final Papers: Option 2

- 3 short papers (again in groups of 2-3)
 - One paper on modern and post-modern values including attitudes toward gender equality.
 - Second paper on welfare attitudes
 - Third paper on racism.
 - Each paper 2 A-4 pages.
 - In each paper choose the same country and discuss the attitudes that exist in that country and suggest what policies you would suggest given these attitudes.
 - Send in these 3 “mini-papers” together as one paper, but with three different chapters.
 - Use internationally acceptable references and notes!!!
 - Reference list must be in alphabetical order!
- 

Statistics Assignment

- Be prepared to answer all the questions at the review meeting next week
- You can work in groups to solve the questions
- The questions will be about interpretation not math!

