

Research Methods in International Relations
IR 6601
Term III, 2015-2016
Weekend Format, Camp Humphreys
Course Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Joel R. Campbell

Meeting dates: February 6-7, March 5-6, 2016

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Advising: Before or after Weekend class sessions,
or at a mutually convenient time during the time I am at Humphreys.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: An investigation of the research methodologies employed in the study of International Relations including research design, variables and hypotheses, citations and reference, qualitative analysis and quantitative techniques. Note: MSIR candidates must achieve a grade of “B” or better in IR 6601 to complete degree program requirements.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: After taking this course, the student should understand the principles of scholastic research in political science. Students should be able to explain the strengths and weaknesses associated with different methods of study. Students should gain a basic understanding of regression analysis so as to interpret tables using various regression models in scholastic IR journals. Students should be able to create a sound research design, including formulating testable hypotheses, operationalizing concepts into measurable variables, and deriving defensible conclusions based on empirical data.

All dates and time provided in this syllabus refer to Korea time (GMT + 09:00).

TEXTBOOKS

Pollock, Philip H., III. 2012. The Essentials of Political Analysis, 4th Ed. Los Angeles:

Sage/CQ Press; ISBN 1608716864

Sprinz, Detlef, and Yael Wolinsky, eds. 2004. *Models, Numbers and Cases: Methods for Studying International Relations*. Ann Arbor, MI.: University of Michigan Press ISBN 978-0472068616, 047206861X <Available at [http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/polisci/faculty/trachtenberg/syllabi/lists/harvard/moravcsik%20\(sprinz%20wolinsky\).pdf](http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/polisci/faculty/trachtenberg/syllabi/lists/harvard/moravcsik%20(sprinz%20wolinsky).pdf)>

SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS

1. Lisa Baglione, "Doing Good and Doing Well: Teaching Research Paper Writing by Unpacking the Paper," *PS: Political Science and Politics* 41, no. 3 (July 2008): 595-602. Available in ProQuest.
2. Trong R. Chai, "A Content Analysis of the Obituary Notices on Mao Tse-Tung," *Public Opinion Quarterly* 41, no. 4 (Winter, 1977-78): 475-87. Available in JSTOR
3. John Gerring, "What Is a Case Study and What Is It Good For?" *American Political Science Review* 98, no. 2 (2004): 341-354. Available in JSTOR.
4. King, Keohane & Verba, "The Science in Social Science," Ch. 1 in *Designing Social Inquiry*. Available at <http://press.princeton.edu/chapters/s5458.pdf>
5. Rose McDermott, "Experimental Methods in Political Science," *Annual Review of Political Science* 5 (2002): 31-61.
6. John J. Mearsheimer and Stephen M. Walt, "Leaving Theory Behind: Why Hypothesis Testing Has Become Bad for IR," *Faculty Research Working Paper, RW-13001* (January 2013). Available at <https://research.hks.harvard.edu/publications/>

COURSE GRADES

GRADE SCALE

Final Examination	30%	A: 90-100
Article Review	10%	B: 80-89
Research Design	35%	C: 70-79
Participation/small groups/ Discussion	25%	D: 60-69 F: 0-59

FINAL EXAMINATION: The Final Examination will be sent to students, and then submitted to me by the last Saturday of the course. The exam will cover key concepts and research methods. It will account for 30% of the term grade.

RESEARCH DESIGN: Students will be required to develop and draft a research design that will account for 35% of the term grade. The research design will include traditional elements of an academic research paper, including an introduction, a thorough literature review, a detailed explanation of hypotheses, and an explanation of the operationalization and measurement of variables. Draft paper sections will be turned in during the term according to a phased schedule provided in the paper instructions at the end of this syllabus (see the instructions at the end of the syllabus). Students will discuss their designs in class during the September class meeting. Final copies of research design papers will be due electronically by March 4, 2016. Late papers will result in lowering the paper grade by one full letter grade for each day it is late.

WEB-ENHANCED PORTION: This is a Web-Enhanced (W-E) course that combines instruction inside and outside of the classroom. Troy requires forty-five hours of instruction for a three-unit course. We will meet for a total of thirty-six hours in the classroom, so nine hours must be covered outside of class. Troy regulations stipulate that the out-of-classroom portion may be Blackboard, CD/DVD, memory stick, reading/study/writing, and other methods, or a combination of these.

The W-E portion in this course will consist of a written review of Chapters 12-15 in the Sprinz and Wolinsky textbook. The literature review should be completed during the time between our class meetings and submitted online by February 26, 2016. This assignment should summarize the main themes in the chapters and provide critical analysis when applicable. I will provide feedback to your reviews by e-mail.

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

Lectures, Class Discussion/Questions/Small groups, Student research papers

The Troy University MSIR program uses the Blackboard educational technology system for its courses. Your professor will explain to you any use of Blackboard activities in the course.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Students are expected to attend ALL class sessions. Students should complete the assigned readings BEFORE the class session (see schedule below), so that you can discuss topics raised by them and answer questions about them. Any absences for TDY, military exercises, and family/medical/other emergencies must be verified with appropriate documentation. Failure to provide such documentation will result in a lower course grade. Excessive absence may result in either a failing grade or dropping of the student from the course.

MAKEUP POLICY: In exceptional cases, such as medical or family emergencies, official duty requirements and military exercises, or TDY/TAD, an authorized absence

may be permitted upon consultation with the instructor. TDY, official duty/military exercises, and family/medical/other emergencies must be verified with appropriate documentation. Failure to provide such documentation will result in a lower course grade. In such cases, the student **MUST** meet with the instructor as soon as possible for a comprehensive review of the missed material. Unauthorized absences will require a mandatory review of missed material **AND** an additional assignment. Failure to do assigned makeup activities will negatively affect the course grade.

INCOMPLETES: A grade of “INC” will only be given in cases of medical emergency, job or military duty, or other significant personal event to be judged by the instructor. Students must submit a petition form, and sign a written commitment to the instructor for completion of course work. Upon satisfactory completion of course work, the instructor will submit a “Change of Grade” form to the office. If the course work is not completed in the following term, the student will receive a grade of “F” for the course.

TDY, official duty or military exercises, and family/medical/other emergencies must be verified with appropriate documentation. Failure to provide such documentation will result in lowered grades on late assignments. All other Incomplete work is considered late, and accordingly will receive reduced grades.

ACADEMIC ETHICS: Details on ethical standards for research papers can be found in Publications Manual of the American Psychological Association. The current “Standards of Conduct” of the Troy University Graduate Catalog should also be consulted. The following will not be tolerated in this course:

1. **Cheating** on examinations or assignments, in any form. This includes submitting another’s work as your own, providing answers to others, or using any unauthorized aids during an examination.
2. **Plagiarism** on research papers, in any form. This includes failure to give credit to the sources of your work, copying of someone else’s work, or using an author’s exact words without quotations.

If you are found to have engaged in unethical behavior, you will receive a grade of “Zero” for the assignment in question, as well as a failing grade in the course.

For more on plagiarism, consult the Troy University Writing Center (www.troy.edu/campus/onlinegraduateprograms/writingresources.htm) and the Purdue University Online Writing Lab. The University of North Carolina has an excellent web site on writing issues.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT: Troy University supports Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, which

insure that post-secondary students with disabilities have equal access to all academic programs, physical access to all buildings, facilities and events, and are not discriminated against on the basis of disability. Eligible students, with appropriate documentation, will be provided equal opportunity to demonstrate their academic skills and potential through the provision of academic adaptations and reasonable accommodations. Further information, including appropriate contact information, can be found at the following link: <http://www.troy.edu/humanresources/ADAPolicy2003.htm>

LIBRARY RESOURCES: Students can access online resources through the Troy University web site at www.troy.edu or www.library.troy.edu. These resources include a variety of text data bases that give complete articles from many journals, magazines and newspapers. The MSIR Journal List, for instance, has over 90 publications, including Foreign Affairs and World Politics.

Access to all of the data bases is through “remote services,” the university’s remote patron authentication system, which involves a three-step process (log on, select a service, and select an individual data base). The main full text information services are EBSCOhost, FirstSearch, InfoTrac and ProQuest. Tutorials and overviews are available on the library home page.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Textbooks for the course

P = Pollock, Philip H.

SW = Sprinz, Detlef, and Yael Wolinsky-Nahmias

See supplementary readings list above for articles

WEEKEND #1 (February 6-7)	TOPICS	READINGS
Sat. Morning	Concepts and Variables	P, Intro., Chaps. 1-2 SW, Chap. 1 Supplements 1, 4
Sat. Afternoon	Research Design and Hypotheses	P, Chaps. 3-4 Supplements 5, 6
Sun. Morning	Comparisons, Inference and Association	P, Chaps. 5-7

Sun. Afternoon	Significance, Regression	P, Chaps. 8-10
WEEKEND #2 (March 5-6)		
Sat. Morning	Quantitative Methods	SW, Chaps. 6, 7, 9
Sat. Afternoon	Case Studies	SW, Chaps. 2-5 Supplements 2, 3
Sun. Morning	Formal Methods	SW, Chaps. 10-11
Sun. Afternoon	Discussion of your designs Application of research methods	

Final Exam is on material up to Weekend #2, Sun. morning.
The Final Exam must be submitted to me by the last Saturday of the course.

RESEARCH DESIGN INSTRUCTIONS

Per catalog requirements, a research design is required in this course. This research design will account for 35% of the semester grade. Final copies of the paper will be due **NO LATER THAN March 4, 2016**. Papers turned in after class will be considered late. Late papers will result in lowering the paper grade by one full letter grade for each 24 hour period it is late. This policy will be strictly enforced in order to have sufficient time for design review and grading prior to the end of the term.

The primary purpose of this paper is to provide students with experience using scholastic conventions in research methodology and writing.

For the paper, students will select a topic dealing with some aspect of international relations. Students must obtain the approval of the instructor as to the topic. While broad discretion will be granted, students should take care to choose a topic about which appropriate data would be available. Data is often difficult to obtain, so think this through when choosing a topic.

Students will work on the papers over the entire course of the term. To that end, we will follow a phased schedule of assignments, as reflected below:

- Monday 1/18: Research topic due, stated as thesis sentence. (5 points)

- Monday 1/25: One-page research plan due. Identify specific research question; provide specific testable hypotheses. (5 points)
- Monday 2/15: Draft research design due, including theory, hypotheses, concepts of interest (variables), and how the variables will be operationalized and measured. (10 points)
- Monday 2/22: Draft literature review due. This should be in final, formal format. (10 points)
- Friday 3/4: Final proposal due. (70 points)

Format: The paper must be typed, double-spaced, in twelve-point Times New Roman font, with one inch margins. Do not place additional space between paragraphs. Use of headings and subheadings within the paper is recommended. Papers are anticipated to be approximately 10-12 pages in length, exclusive of title page, bibliography, and notes. Please note that quality is more important than volume. Different research designs will result in different lengths of paper.

Citation and Sources: You may use whichever citation format you are most familiar with; however, if I am not familiar with the system you choose, you must provide me with a system manual upon my request. Proper citation requires sufficient information for me to check your sources with ease. Internet sources may and should be used; however, not all Internet sites are equal. Common sense should help tell you which websites are acceptable and which are not for academic work. If in doubt, it is best to avoid that site. Of course, you may always ask me for an opinion as to suitability. Citation of Internet sources requires more than simply listing the website. Include titles, authors, dates written, and dates accessed. Papers citing Wikipedia will be docked 5 points. Students should consult books, periodicals, newspapers, policy papers, and government documents as well as on-line sources to ensure proper breadth of research. A bibliography must be included with the paper.

Grading: Papers will be graded on demonstrated understanding, thoroughness, and integration of research into a coherent presentation. Poor spelling, grammar, punctuation or style will negatively affect the grade. Please note the specific points allocated to each phased assignment of the paper.

PLEASE PROOFREAD anything that you submit.