

International Relations Capstone
IR 6690
Term III, 2018-2019
Weekend Format, Kadena Air Base
Course Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Joel R. Campbell

Meeting dates, location: January 12-13, February 9-10, 2019 (0900-1800),
Kadena Education Office building, 2F

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Office location: Kadena Air Base, Kadena Education Office building, Faculty office,
2F (18 FSS/FSDE, Box 40, Unit #5134, APO AP 96368-5134)

Advising: Before or after Weekend class sessions, or at a mutually convenient time
during the week in the faculty office at the Education Office building at Kadena.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course serves as the capstone course for the MSIR program and requires students to conduct a significant research project in an IR topic chosen by them in consultation with the instructor. Students will have 6 weeks to produce a conference level paper (5,000+ words) that will be graded by at least two faculty members. Note: MSIR candidates must achieve a grade of “B” or better in IR 6690 to complete degree program requirements.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: This course will:

- Afford students the opportunity to conduct in depth research in a topic in IR, and
- Illustrate the impact of the MSIR program on the student’s abilities; they will apply theory and methods to the analysis of a topic in IR.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: Students will:

- Apply theoretical concepts learned in the MSIR program to the analysis of their research topic
- Demonstrate the ability to conduct graduate level research
- Prepare a conference level research paper

RESEARCH COMPONENT

Students will be required to complete a research project and write a 5,000+ word research report.

PREREQUISITES

Students must have completed all other IR core courses (IR5551, IR6601, IR6620, and IR6652) as well as at least 15 hours of MSIR electives prior to enrolling in this course.

ENTRANCE COMPETENCIES: Students are expected to have:

- Mastered basic theories in IR and be able to apply them in the conduct of research
- Mastered the basics of research methodology and be able to design and conduct research
- Identified an IR topic of interest to research

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

NATURE OF GRADUATE WORK: “Graduate level work differs appreciably from that of undergraduate programs. Graduate students will find that their programs are geared toward meeting certain criteria. The first of these criteria is that the graduate student should understand the ramifications of research as well as the manner in which it is conducted. Research, the context of graduate study, is conducted in a systematic, thorough, critical, interpretative, and analytical manner—free of preconceived notions and receptive to new ideas; such research attempts to collate and synthesize new patterns of meaning, discover new truths, and correct past errors. The second component of the graduate program requires that graduate students master their field of study. Such mastery would entail a thorough grasp of the subject matter, literature in the field, theory, and methodology related to the student's field of interest. Finally, every graduate program must give students the opportunity to demonstrate research skills, knowledge of the field, and opportunity to contribute to the field of study. Thus, a person who wishes to do graduate level work must be prepared to pass examinations, both written and oral, to write coherent papers that reflect the results of research as defined above, and to participate in course projects” (2015-16 Troy University Graduate Catalog, p. 4).

TEXTBOOKS

Lisa A. Baglione, *Writing a Research Paper in Political Science: A Practical Guide to Inquiry, Structure, and Methods*, 3rd ed. (New York: CQ Press, 2015). ISBN 1483376168, 978-1483376165

Akan Milici, Elizabeth S. Smith, eds., *Political Science Research in Practice*, 1st ed.. (London: Routledge, 2012). ISBN 0415887739, 978-0415887731 [**Recommended**]

SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS (mostly available through Troy Library, or as noted)

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. Andrew Bennett and Colin Elman, "Case Study Methods in the International Relations Subfield," *Comparative Political Studies* 40, no. 2 (2007): 170-195. Available in Sage database.
3. Andrew Bennett and Colin Elman, "Complex Causal Relations and Case Study Methods: The Example of Path Dependence" *Political Analysis* 14, no. 3 (2006): 250-267. Available in JSTOR.
4. David Collier, "Understanding Process Tracing," *PS: Political Science and Politics* 44, No. 4 (2011), pp. 823-830.
5. 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.
6. King, Keohane and Verba, "The Science in Social Science," Ch. 1 in *Designing Social Inquiry*. Available at <http://press.princeton.edu/chapters/s5458.pdf>
7. Rose McDermott, "Experimental Methods in Political Science," *Annual Review of Political Science* 5 (2002): 31-61.
8. 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/>

METHOD OF EVALUATION

The course grade consists entirely of the grade on the final research paper. Unlike other courses, the grading process is determined by department policy and involves at least two faculty members in the following multi-step process:

- The instructor will assess the final draft and determine if it warrants at least a B. If it does not, the student will receive a C or lower for the course. Note: the instructor is acting as a gatekeeper and if the instructor gives the paper a grade lower than a B, then the process ends with the instructor's grade.

- If the instructor gives a grade of B or higher to the paper, it will be sent out to a second faculty member for grading. If the second faculty grader gives a grade of B or higher, the student will have successfully completed the course and receive the grade awarded by the instructor.
- If the second faculty grader gives a grade below a B, the paper will be sent to a third faculty member for grading. If the third faculty member gives the paper a B or higher, then the student successfully completes the course and receives the grade given by the instructor. If the third faculty member gives a grade below a B, then the student will not pass and will receive a grade of C or lower as determined by the instructor.
- This process will be open. Students will know who their graders are and receive feedback from them.

Note: There is no appeals process to either the instructor's decision to give a grade below a B, or to the faculty grader's decision to do so. Students who receive a grade below a B must re-take the course to qualify for graduation.

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. Per PACOM and Troy University instructions, the site coordinator must be notified of students who miss more than 25% of classes.

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.

Cheating or plagiarism will result in grades of zero on the assignment and F in the course. Such cases may be subject to further disciplinary action by Troy University up to and including expulsion from the MSIR program. The instructor uses on-line software to help detect plagiarism. Please note that no assignment prepared for or submitted in a different course may be used in this course without prior approval of the instructor.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT: Troy University, under the guidelines of ADA and the Rehabilitation Act, makes reasonable accommodations for documented physical and mental limitations of otherwise-qualified individuals with disabilities. To provide the best possible services to students, employees, and visitors, Troy University has designated Disability Services Coordinators and Human Resources representatives on each campus as responsible parties for coordinating accommodations for persons with disabilities. For more information about physical access to building or grounds, academic or workplace accommodations, or other ADA related services, individuals should contact a Disability Services Coordinator or Human Resources representative on their campus of attendance. Specific information regarding the ADA, including contact information for responsible parties, can be found at the following link:

<http://trojan.troy.edu/employees/humanresources/documents/ADAPolicy2003.htm>

CELL PHONES, COMPUTERS, ELECTRONIC DEVICES: Use of any electronic device (cell phone, tablet, laptop, etc.) by students in the instructional environment is prohibited unless explicitly approved on a case-by-case basis by the instructor of record or by the Office of Disability Services in collaboration with the instructor. Cell phones and other communication devices may be used for emergencies, but sending or receiving non-emergency messages during a class meeting is forbidden by the University. Use of a communication device to violate the Troy University “Standards of Conduct” will result in appropriate disciplinary action (See pp. 42-52 of the Oracle.). In order to receive emergency messages from the University or family members, devices must be in a vibration, silent or other unobtrusive mode. Students receiving calls that they believe to be emergency calls must answer quietly without disturbing the teaching environment. If the call is an emergency, they must move unobtrusively and quietly from the instructional area and notify the instructor as soon as reasonably possible. Students who are expecting an emergency call should inform the instructor before the start of the instructional period. The instructor in this class has opted to permit use of tablets and/or laptops in class.

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

B = Baglione

WEEKEND #1 (Jan. 12-13)

READINGS

Week 1 (Jan.7 - 13): Introduction of Topic	B, Chs. 1-2
Week 2 (Jan. 14 – Jan. 20): Draft Literature Review	B, Chs. 3-4
Week 3 (Jan. 21 – Jan. 27): Research Design	B, Chs. 5, 7
Week 4 (Jan. 28 – Feb. 3): Conduct Research	B, Ch. 6

WEEKEND #2 (Feb. 9-10)

Week 5 (Feb. 4 – 10) Conduct Research	B, Ch. 8
Week 6 (Feb. 11 - 17): Submit Draft	B. Ch. 9
Week 7 (Feb. 18 – 24): Feedback on Draft/ Submit Final Draft	
Week 8 (Feb. 25 – Mar. 3): Papers Evaluated and Sent to Faculty Graders	
Week 9 (Mar. 4 - 10): Receive Feedback from Graders	