

TROY UNIVERSITY PACIFIC REGION
COURSE SYLLABUS
IR6601 Research Methods in International Relations
Term 2, 2017-2018 [16 October — 17 December 2016]
Weekend/Web-Enhanced at Yongsan AG, ROK
Weekends 1/7; 21-22 October and 2-3 December 2017

INSTRUCTOR/PROFESSOR: Daniel Pinkston
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MEETING LOCATION, DATES & TIMES: Classes will meet on two weekends [21-22 October and 2-3 December 2017] from 0900 to 1800. This course includes a “web-enhanced” portion, which is explained below.

OFFICE HOURS: By appointment.

CATALOG 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.]

TEXTBOOKS:

Baglione, Lisa A., *Writing a Research Paper in Political Science: A Practical Guide to Inquiry, Structure, and Methods*, 3rd Edition (CQ Press, 2015), ISBN-13: 978-1483376165.

Binmore, Ken, *Game Theory: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press, 2008), ISBN-13: 978-0199218462.

Lamont, Christopher, *Research Methods in International Relations* (SAGE Publication, 2015), ISBN-13: 978-1446286050.

Pollock, Philip H., III, *The Essentials of Political Analysis*, 5th Edition (CQ Press, 2015), ISBN-13: 978-1506305837.

Salkind, Neil J., *Excel Statistics: A Quick Guide*, 3rd Edition (SAGE Publications, 2015), ISBN-13: 978-1483374048.

SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS: Additional readings for the course, including book chapters, journal articles, and other materials will be available in pdf file format through Office 365 or through the Troy electronic library. Students will need to download the files and read the materials before class meetings. If you have any problems downloading the materials please email me at dapinkston@troy.edu.

OVERALL OBJECTIVES/ PURPOSE: 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 academic 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.

GRADING AND ASSIGNMENTS:

Web-enhanced Canvas introduction and selection of research topic 10%

Participation in class discussions 20%

Web-enhanced research design work plus in-class presentation 30%

Final exam 40%

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION: Lectures, class discussion/questions/small groups, student research papers, student presentations.

CANVAS: The Troy University MSIR program uses the Canvas educational technology system for its courses. You will need to access Canvas to obtain some of the course reading materials. Departmental policy mandates use of discussion boards in Canvas. Accordingly, a series of questions will be posted in Canvas. Students must read all discussion boards and must respond to the discussion questions over the course of the term. Discussion posts will account for 10% of the course grade.

WEB-ENHANCED PORTION: This course combines instructions inside and outside of the classroom. Troy requires 45 hours of instruction for a three-unit course. We will meet for a total of 32 hours in the classroom, so 13 hours must be covered outside of class. Troy requires that at least 51 percent, but not more than 80 percent of contact hours be in the classroom. Our in class portion will total 71 percent of the course requirement. Troy regulations stipulate that the out-of-classroom portion may be Canvas, CD/DVD, memory stick, reading/study/writing, and other methods, or a combination thereof.

The W-E portion in this course will consist of two parts: 1) a personal introduction and the selection of a research topic submitted in Canvas; and 2) a research design for each student's selected research topic. The research interest, and research topic is due 21 October, before the first day of class. The personal introduction is not to extract personal or private information from you, but to confirm that you can access Canvas, and to get a better understanding of your educational background and research interests in IR. There are no prerequisites for the course, and a background in political science or IR is not required. You can change your research topic after our first class meetings. The research design will be done as part of the web-enhanced component and in class. The research design is due 2 December, and each student will present his/her research design on the last day of class, 3 December.

FINAL EXAM: Department policy stipulates that every web-enhanced course must have a final exam no earlier than week 9 of a 9-week term. The final exam will be given during the ninth week of the course (11-15 December). It will consist of some basic statistical tests with Microsoft Excel, and a few short-answer essay questions. The data sets for the final exam will be provided.

STUDENT-INSTRUCTOR INTERACTION/COMMUNICATION: I do not have regular office hours but meetings are available before or after class on Yongsan AG, or in Seoul by appointment. We can schedule a time to meet before or after class, or some other mutually convenient time. I will respond to your e-mails as quickly as I can., but if it is extremely urgent, or if you need to discuss something that cannot be addressed through e-mail, you can reach me by telephone. I am available by appointment for discussions by telephone or skype and whatsapp as well.

CLASS SCHEDULE: This schedule is subject to adjustment, and the instructor reserves the right to change the reading assignments if necessary. This is unlikely, but any changes will be made with sufficient time for students to complete the readings and assignments.

21 October (Saturday)

Course introduction, research, theories and hypotheses

Readings:

King, Keohane, and Verba, "The Science in Social Science," Ch. 1 in *Designing Social Inquiry*. Available at <http://press.princeton.edu/chapters/s5458.pdf>; Hedley Bull, "International Theory: The Case for a Classical Approach," *World Politics*, Vol. 18, No. 3, April 1966 (Available in JSTOR); Michael W. Mosser, "Puzzles versus Problems: The Alleged Disconnect between Academics and Military Practitioners." *Perspectives on Politics*, Vol. 8, No. 4, December 2010; Pollock, Introduction, chapters 1-3; Baglione, chapters 1-4.

22 October (Sunday)

Theories and hypotheses (continued), operationalization and measurement, research design

Readings:

John J. Mearsheimer and Stephen M. Walt, "Leaving Theory Behind: Why Simplistic Hypothesis Testing Is Bad for International Relations," *European Journal of International Relations*, Vol. 19, No. 3, 2013, pp. 427-457; Pollock, chapters 4-5; Baglione, chapters 5-7; Lamont, chapters 1-5.

2 December (Saturday)

Experiments, case studies, regressions, logit and probit, game theory

Readings:

John Gerring, "What Is a Case Study and What Is It Good For?" *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 98, No. 2, 2004, pp. 341-354; Bennett, Andrew, and Colin Elman, "Case Study Methods in the International Relations Subfield," *Comparative Political Studies*, Vol. 40, No. 2, 2007, pp. 170-195; Bennett, Andrew, and Colin Elman, "Complex Causal Relations and Case Study Methods: The Example of Path Dependence," *Political Analysis*, Vol. 14, No. 3, 2006, pp. 250-267; Pollock, chapters 6-9; Baglione, chapters 8-9; Lamont, chapters 6-10.

3 December (Sunday)

Experiments, case studies, regressions, logit and probit, game theory, in-class statistics exercises, student research design presentations

Readings: Salkind; Binmore.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Attendance is mandatory. By university policy, the Troy coordinator must be notified if students miss more than 25% of classes.

INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY: If a student requests an “INC”, he or she must submit to the instructor a signed *Petition for and Work to Remove an Incomplete Grade* form indicating the compelling reason for the “INC”. The instructor approving the request will document the required work and the deadline for completion. When the student completes the required work, the instructor will submit a *Change of Grade* form. In cases where a student fails to make up “INC” course work by the end of the next term in which they enroll, the “INC” will automatically be recorded as an “F” grade on the student’s record.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA): 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>.

MOBILE PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES: Use of any electronic device (mobile 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. Mobile phones and other communication devices may be used for emergencies, however, 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, 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.

STANDARDS OF CONDUCT: By their enrollment, students are responsible for following the “Standards of Conduct” as they apply in the Troy University Pacific Region. Students may be disciplined up to and including suspension and expulsion for the commission of

offenses in described in the Graduate Bulletin. As a reminder to graduate students, the “Standards of Conduct” regards dishonesty as an offense, which includes cheating and plagiarism. Students should carefully study the definitions of cheating and plagiarism:

1. Cheating includes:

a) Copying, or relying upon, another student’s answers or submitting another student’s work as one’s own or submitting as new work assignments previously completed for another class, while completing any class assignment, study group assignment, or during in-class or take home examinations.

b) Providing one’s own answers to another student while completing any class assignment, study group assignment (except where approved by the instructor due to the nature of the assignment itself), or during in-class or take-home examinations.

c) Using notes, books, or any other unauthorized aids during an examination; or holding an unauthorized discussion of answers during in-class examinations.

2. Plagiarism is submitting a paper, other required student course requirement in which the language, ideas, or thoughts are identical to published or unpublished material from another source, including material found on the Internet, without correctly giving credit to that source. While computers and the Internet allow students to cut and paste work from other material, new software is making it easier for universities detect plagiarism. Instructors may screen electronic versions of student assignments using the detection software.

LIBRARY SUPPORT:

Students can access online information resources through Troy University web site at <http://www.troy.edu> or the Troy Library Services home page at <http://trojan.troy.edu/library/>. These resources include a variety of full text databases that provide complete article texts from thousands of journals, magazines and newspapers. Among the most helpful databases are JSTOR, Academic Search Complete, and Lexis-Nexis.