

IR6601: Research Methods in International Relations (W-E)

Term 4, 2016-2017: March 13 – May 14, 2017 3 Credit Hours

Location: Yongsan Army Garrison, Education Center

Meeting Time: 0900-1800, March 18-19, April 22-23

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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.

Required Texts

- Pollock, Philip H., III. 2012. *The Essentials of Political Analysis*, 4th Ed. Los Angeles: Sage/CQ Press; 1608716864
- Baglione, Lisa A. 2015. *Writing a Research Paper in Political Science: A Practical Guide to Inquiry, Structure, and Methods*, 3rd ed. Los Angeles: Sage/CQ Press; 9781483376165

Additional assigned readings will be available electronically via TROY library databases.

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).

Course Requirements

Students are expected to keep up with the readings and to participate in class discussion. Students should obtain a TROY e-mail account, checking it regularly as this will be the means of providing notice of assignment changes, class cancellations, or other matters outside of class. Students must also have access to a computer with Microsoft Excel, as we will use Excel to demonstrate and conduct basic regression analysis.

A. Exams

There will be two exams in this course. The midterm and the final exam will each count for 20% of the course grade. Exams will include material covered in the readings and discussed in class, and will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. The Midterm will be a take-home exam, due April 16. The Final exam will be a proctored 2 hour exam taken in the Site Coordinator's office during Week 9, between Monday, May 8 and Friday, May 12.

B. Homework

There will be a series of homework assignments accounting for a total of 15% of the semester grade. Homework assignments will be provided on the Blackboard website under the "Homework" link and are to be submitted in Blackboard under the "Assignment" link. Late assignments will be assessed a 10 point penalty for each day late.

- Due 3/17: HW Assignment 1
- Due 4/2: HW Assignment 2
- Due 4/30: HW Assignment 3

C. Research Design

Students will be required to develop and draft a research design that will account for 40% of the semester 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. Students will discuss their designs in class during the November class meeting. Final copies of research design papers will be due in class **May 6, 2017**. Late papers will result in lowering the paper grade by one full letter grade for each day it is late.

D. Discussion Boards

The MSIR program mandates use of discussion boards in on-line classes. Each student must post at least twice over the course of the term on the discussion boards. Postings may respond directly to the question asked or may respond to a prior posting on the discussion board. Postings should be between 200-500 words. Together, the posts will account for 5% of the course grade. Student discussion will reflect a proper tone befitting scholastic discussion.

E. Attendance

Regular attendance is imperative for understanding the subject as well as for maximizing your chances to succeed on the exams. By university policy, TROY's coordinator must be notified of students who miss more than 25% of classes. Attendance will be taken in compliance with College policy.

Grading Policy

90 - 100	A	70 - 79	C	0 - 59	F
80 - 89	B	60 - 69	D		

Incomplete grades: If a student is unable to complete all course grading requirements, the student may be eligible to request the assignment of an incomplete grade. An Incomplete grade is not automatically assigned by the instructor, but must be requested by the student and approved by the instructor. The decision to approve or reject a student's request for an incomplete grade is at the discretion of the instructor using the following criteria: Student submits a completed "Incomplete Grade Request" form prior to assignment of a course grade. Student's progress in the course is deemed satisfactory. Student is passing the course when the request is made. The circumstances that prevented the student's completion of course requirements are beyond the student's control and adequate documentation is provided. A student may request an incomplete by completing and submitting to the instructor an "Incomplete Grade Request" form. This form can be found at www.troy.edu/graduateschool/forms.html

Web-Enhanced Classes

A 3 credit course requires 45 contact hours. Class meetings cover 36 of these hours, so 9 additional hours must be accounted for via Blackboard. To meet this 9 hours, this course includes the following: Completion of 3 homework assignments (4 hours); discussion board posts (3 hours), and review of instructor slides/lectures posted on Blackboard (2 hours).

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 Phone and Other 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, 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. The instructor in this class has opted to permit use of tablets and/or laptops in class.

Academic Honesty

By their enrollment, students are responsible for following the “Standards of Conduct” as they apply in the Troy University Pacific Region. It is the student’s responsibility to be familiar with these guidelines and to comply therewith.

Plagiarism is the use of another person’s words or ideas without proper attribution; whether intentional or not, representing another person’s words or ideas as one’s own constitutes plagiarism. Plagiarism is an ethical offense violating Troy’s Standards of Conduct and Troy’s Academic Code. All MSIR students are expected to understand the concept of plagiarism as well as the rules of proper citation. If a student has any doubt about proper attribution, it is the responsibility of the student to seek clarification from the instructor. Students deemed by the instructor to have engaged in intentional plagiarism in this course shall receive an automatic F in the class and are subject to additional discipline up to and including expulsion from the program. Students deemed by the instructor to have engaged in unintentional plagiarism are subject to disciplinary action to be determined by the instructor in accordance with the severity of the offense. 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.

Library Resources

Students can access online information resources through 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. Remote access is available via the student’s Troy User ID and Password. Specific help for Global Campus students, including a dedicated librarian, is available at: http://trojan.troy.edu/library/globalcampus/gc_librarian.html

Course Schedule

Week 1 (Mar. 13-19): Course Introduction; Scientific Research

- Text, Introduction
- Baglione, Ch. 1-4
- King, Keohane & 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* 18, no. 3 (April 1966): 361-377. Available in JSTOR.
- James Mahoney & Gary Goertz, “A Tale of Two Cultures: Contrasting Quantitative and Qualitative Research,” *Political Analysis* 14, no. 3 (Summer 2006): 227-249. Available in JSTOR.

HOMEWORK #1 DUE 3/15

Saturday 3/18

- Introduction
- Scientific Method
- Theories & Hypotheses
- Operationalization
- Measurement
- Experiments
- Case Studies

Sunday 3/19

Week 2 (Mar. 20-26): Scientific Research; Theories & Hypotheses

- Text, Chapters 1-3
- Baglione, Ch. 5
- John J. Mearsheimer and Stephen M. Walt, “Leaving Theory Behind: Why Simplistic Hypothesis Testing Is Bad for International Relations,” *European Journal of International Relations* 19, no. 3 (2013): 427-457. Available in ProQuest.
- David Collier & James Mahoney, “Selection Bias in Qualitative Research,” *World Politics* 49, no. 1 (October 1996): 56-91. Available in JSTOR.

RESEARCH TOPIC DUE 3/26

Week 3 (Mar. 27 – Apr. 2): Operationalization & Measurement; Design

- Text, Chapter 4-5
- Baglione, Ch. 7

HOMEWORK #2 DUE 4/2

Week 4 (Apr. 3-9): Experiments & Case Studies

- Rose McDermott, “Experimental Methods in Political Science,” *Annual Review of Political Science* 5 (2002): 31-61. Available in Academic One Search.
- 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.
- Bennett, Andrew, and Colin Elman, “Case Study Methods in the International Relations Subfield,” *Comparative Political Studies* 40, no. 2 (2007): 170-195. Available in Sage database.
- Bennett, Andrew, 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.

RESEARCH DRAFT DUE 4/9

Week 5 (Apr. 10-16): Content Analysis; Process Tracing; Counterfactuals

- 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.
- David Collier, "Understanding Process Tracing," *PS: Political Science and Politics* 44, no. 4 (2011): 823-830. Available in ProQuest.
- James D. Fearon, "Counterfactuals and Hypothesis Testing in Political Science," *World Politics* 43, no. 2 (Jan. 1991): 169-195. Available in JSTOR.

MIDTERM EXAM DUE 4/16

Week 6 (Apr. 17-23): Regression Analysis

- Text, Chapter 6-7
- Baglione, Ch. 8

Saturday, April 22

- Review Midterm
- Bivariate Analysis
- Multivariate Analysis
- Multivariate Analysis
- Probit & Logit
- Formal Models
- Student Presentations

Sunday, April 23

Week 7 (Apr. 24-30): Multivariate Analysis

- Text, Chapter 8
- HOMEWORK #3 DUE 4/30**

Week 8 (May 1-7): Logit & Probit; Formal Models

- Text, Chapter 9
- Baglione, Ch. 9
- Duncan Snidal, "Formal Models of International Politics," 242-283 in Sprinz and Wolinsky, *Cases, Numbers, Models: IR Research Methods* (2002). 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)
- D. Marc Kilgour and Yael Wolinsky, "Game Theory and International Environmental Policy," 339-369 in Sprinz and Wolinsky, *Cases, Numbers, Models: IR Research Methods* (2002) 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)

FINAL RESEARCH DESIGN DUE 5/6

Week 9 (May 8-14): Final Exam

FINAL EXAM due NLT Friday, 5/12

Note: The above schedule, readings and procedures in this course are subject to change.

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Term 4, 2016-17

Research Design Instructions

Per catalog requirements, a research design is required in this course. This research design will account for 40% of the semester grade. Final copies of the paper will be due **May 6, 2017**. 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:

- Sunday, March 26: Research topic due. (5 points)
- Sunday, April 9: Draft research design due in class, including theory, hypotheses, concepts of interest (variables), and how the variables will be operationalized and measured. (10 points)
- Sunday, April 23: Presentation; draft paper due. (15 points)
- Sunday, May 6: Final paper 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.