

**TROY UNIVERSITY  
TERM I, AY 2012-2013  
YONGSAN**

**IR6601 RESEARCH METHODS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
Web-Enhanced Format**

In-Class Sessions Week 6 and 7 (Sept. 22/23; Sept. 29/30)

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Jay Hurwitz

A.B., University of California, Berkeley, 1965

M.A., Michigan State University, 1966

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**CATALOG 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. A substantial research paper is required in the course. Note: MSIR candidates must achieve a grade of "B" or better in IR 6601 to complete degree program requirements.

**OVERALL OBJECTIVES:**

The purpose of this course is to establish a general familiarity with the research methods and techniques needed for analyzing international relations. This will include a broad understanding of research design, qualitative and quantitative methods, data collection, and data analysis.

**SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:**

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to demonstrate an understanding of

- The major stages required for the research process.
- The difference between experimental and statistical controls in research design.
- The difference between conceptualization and operationalization.
- The nature of hypotheses and propositions.
- Inductive and deductive reasonings.
- Sampling methods in cross-sectional studies.
- How statistical techniques are used in the social sciences, including univariate, bivariate, and multivariate analyses for research.
- Relationships between variables.
- The difference between qualitative and quantitative analyses.

**METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:** Lectures, Class Discussion, On-line Assignment, Student Literature Review/Research Design and class presentation, Final Exam

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

On-line component	20%
Lit. Review/Research Design	30%
Class presentation	10%
Final Exam	30%
Participation	10%

<b>GRADING SCALE:</b>	A: 90-100
	B: 80-89
	C: 70-79
	D: 60-69
	F: 0-59

**TEXT:** Janet Buttolph Johnson, H. T. Reynolds, and Jason D. Mycoff , POLITICAL SCIENCE RESEARCH METHODS, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition, CQ Press, 2008, ISBN: 0872894428

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:** Students are expected to attend ALL class sessions. Excessive absences may result in a failing grade or the need to drop the course. Students should complete the assigned readings BEFORE the class session.

**MAKE-UP POLICY:** In exceptional cases (e.g., medical/family emergencies, official duty requirements, TDY/TAD, etc.) an Authorized Absence may be permitted upon consultation with the Instructor. In these situations, the student MUST meet as soon as possible with the instructor to complete a comprehensive review of the missed material. Unauthorized absences will require the mandatory review of the missed material, and may also adversely affect final grades.

**LIBRARY RESOURCES:** Students can access online information resources through the Troy Library Services home page at <https://library/troy.edu> These resources include a variety of full text databases that provide complete article texts from thousands of journals, magazines and newspapers.

Access to all data bases is permitted through "remote services," the university's remote patron authentication system using a three step procedure: (1) Log onto "remote services" using your social security account number or student ID number; (2) Select an information service; (3) Select an individual database.

The university main full text information services are: EBSCOhost, FirstSearch, InfoTrac and ProQuest. Each of these information services provides several databases and each has a unique search interface with which students should be familiar. Tutorials and overviews for these information services are available on the library home page under the "Guides" link.

In most cases, the best full text coverage of international relations topics can be found in the following databases: Academic Search Elite (through EBSCOhost); Periodical Abstracts II (through ProQuest or FirstSearch); and Expanded Academic (through InfoTrac). Coverage of international newspapers can be found in Newspaper Source (through EBSCOhost) and the Electric Library.

The full text of FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WORLD POLITICS and many other international relations publications can be accessed through the university's databases. The "MSIR Journal List" gives full text sources for over 90 publications. It can be accessed under the "Guides" link.

If the full text of an article is not available online, it can be requested using the article request form on the library home page under the "Request" link. Delivery time is generally two (2) days for articles held by the Troy, Alabama Campus Library. Other requests are usually delivered in seven (7) to ten (10) days.

**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>

**ACADEMIC ETHICS:** Details of Ethical Standards of Reporting Information can be found in the PUBLICATION MANUAL of the AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION. Troy University's "Standards of Conduct," published in the TROY UNIVERSITY GRADUATE CATALOG, should also be consulted.

#### **LITERATURE REVIEW AND RESEARCH DESIGN (30%):**

The assignment is to write a "Literature Review" and "Research Design", focusing on a substantive research issue in the field of International Relations. Chapter 5, Research Design, and Chapter 6, Conducting a Literature Review in the Johnson/Reynolds text should be helpful (see especially "Selecting a Research Topic", pp. 183 - 187). Ch. 14, The Research Report: An Annotated Example is also very helpful.

The text defines a **Literature Review** as:

"A systematic examination and interpretation of the literature for the purpose of informing further work on a topic." (p. 207)

The text defines a **Research Design** as:

"a plan that shows how a researcher intends to study an empirical question. It indicates what specific theory or propositions will be tested, what units of analysis ....are appropriate for the tests, what measurements or observations (i.e., data) are needed, how all this information will be collected, and which analytical and statistical procedures will be used to examine the data." (p. 122-123)

And:

"A plan specifying how the researcher intends to fulfill the goals of the study ; a logical plan for testing hypotheses." (p. 180)

Chapter 5 on Research Design may seem to focus on experimental designs, survey research, and statistical analysis. I tend to doubt that there would be many students planning to do such a project. No matter what kind of project you are doing, however, there is much to be learned from the discussion of those approaches. Note that there is also discussion of *non-experimental*

research designs, including single-case (case studies) and comparative analysis, which are the types of projects students tend to be more familiar with.

The finished product should be approximately 12 - 15 double spaced pages of text and include appropriate source citations for direct quotes, empirical data, statistics and paraphrased ideas from others. A bibliography should follow the text. The assignment is worth 30%. Each student will make a class presentation on their project the weekend of Sept. 29/30. The class presentation is worth 10%.

Your topic must be approved by the instructor (see assignment due Aug. 20). The finished product is due NO LATER THAN Tuesday, Oct. 9. It may be e-mailed to the instructor as an attachment, or submitted directly to the instructor in class.

The official Troy University style guide for format is the PUBLICATIONS MANUAL of the AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

### **ON-LINE COMPONENT OF CLASS (20%):**

The on-line component of the class will link to the literature review/research design assignment.

On-line assignment Part I: Each student will submit, no later than noon Tuesday, Aug. 21, a topic they wish to explore for the literature review/research design assignment, and a first draft of a literature review. The instructor will comment on the topics, and the student submissions and his comments will be distributed to all students, who will also comment and offer their ideas about the topics selected by their classmates.

On-line assignment Part II: Each student will submit, no later than noon Tuesday, Sept. 4, a first draft of a research design for their topic. {**Please note** – the finished product is **NOT** going to be the result of doing the research; the finished product will be the research design itself (and literature review)}. The instructor will comment on the research design drafts, and the drafts and his comments will be distributed to all students, who will also comment and offer their comments,

### **Reading assignment:**

Ch. 5, Research Design

Ch. 6, Conducting a Literature Review  
(esp. "Selecting a Research Topic", pp. 183 - 187).

Ch. 14, The Research Report: An Annotated Example

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**COURSE CALENDAR (subject to revision)**

**•Week One**

**Week of August 13**

Reading Assignment -- Ch. 6, Conducting a Literature Review

**•Week Two**

**Week of August 20**

On-line assignment Part I – submit research topic and first draft of literature review (due by noon, Aug. 21).

**•Week Three**

**Week of August 27**

Reading Assignment –

Ch. 5 – Research Design

Ch. 14 -- The Research Report: An Annotated Example

**•Week Four**

**Week of Sept. 3**

On-line assignment Part II – submit first draft of research design (due by noon Sept. 4)

**•Week Five**

**Week of Sept. 10**

This week and next should be devoted to the reading assigned for the face-to-face sessions Sept. 22/23.

**•Week Six**

**Week of Sept. 17**

Complete the reading assigned for the face-to-face sessions Sept. 22/23.

**Face-to-Face session Saturday, Sept. 22**

Ch. 1, Introduction

Ch. 2, Studying Politics Scientifically

Ch. 3, The Building Blocks of Social Scientific Research:  
Hypotheses, Concepts and Variables

review of Ch. 5, Research Design

Ch. 6, Conducting a Literature Review

Ch. 14, The Research Report: An Annotated Example

**Face-to-Face session Sunday, Sept. 23**

- Ch. 4, The Building Blocks of Social Scientific Research: Measurement
- Ch. 7, Sampling
- Ch. 8, Making Empirical Observations: Direct and Indirect Observations
- Ch. 9, Document Analysis: Using the Written Record

**•Week Seven**

**Week of Sept. 24**

**•Face-to-Face session Saturday, Sept. 29**

- Ch. 10, Survey Research and Interviewing
- Ch. 11, Statistics: First Steps

**•Face-to-Face session, Sunday, Sept. 30**

- Ch. 12, Investigating Relationships Between Two Variables
- Ch. 13, Multivariate Analysis (p. 503 – 514)

**Week Eight**

**Week of Oct. 1**

Final Part B (10%) Due – Oct. 3

**Week Nine**

**Week of Oct. 8**

Completed Literature Review/Research Design due no later than noon Tuesday, Oct. 9

**FINAL EXAM (30%)**

The final exam will be part in-class (15%) and part take-home (15%). The in-class section will be scheduled for Sunday afternoon, Sept. 30; the take-home section will be distributed at that time, and is due back to the instructor no later than 10:00 AM Oct. 3, Korea time.

- Final Part A (in-class) (15%)
- Final Part B distributed (15%)

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**NOTE:**

For a back-to-back two-weekend format it is critical that you set up a reading schedule for yourself so that you are not in the impossible situation of trying to read all that is assigned in ten to fourteen days. That cannot be done.