



**TROY UNIVERSITY PACIFIC REGION  
COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Research Methods  
IR 6601  
Term 3, 2013  
Independent Study**

**PROFESSOR:**  
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**MEETING LOCATION, DATES & TIMES:**

This course will be conducted via email.

**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. 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.

**TEXTBOOK:**

Audie Klotz (Editor), Deepa Prakash (Editor). *Qualitative Methods in International Relations: A Pluralist Guide*. Palgrave Macmillan (2009).

ISBN-10: 023024175; ISBN-13: 978-0230241756

**OVERALL OBJECTIVES/ PURPOSE:**

The student will understand the methods used to undertake qualitative and quantitative research. This course includes both a historical emphasis and a focus on contemporary events.

## **STUDENT OUTCOMES/ COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

Upon completion of this course the student should be able to: (1) Describe the standard methods used for qualitative and quantitative research; (2) Demonstrate knowledge of how to use primary and secondary sources, and how to employ basic statistical methods (3) Analyze and evaluate research in the field using the standards of research methods.

## **SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS:**

Jan 23: Qualitative Methods Review, Thesis Statement, Annotated Bibliography (Draft)

Feb 10: Quantitative Methods/ Correlates of War Project, Outline

Feb 20: Charts and Figures, First Draft

Mar 5: Final Project

## **ASSIGNMENT OF GRADES:**

Evaluation: Grades for the semester will be based on the following criteria:

Draft	30%	Nov 4
Final Version & Defense	70%	Dec 5

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

Attendance (or continuous communication) is mandatory. No automatic cuts are authorized. Arrangements for excused absences must be made PRIOR to the absence. By university policy, the TROY's coordinator must be notified of students who miss more than 25% of classes.

## **INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY:**

A grade of "INC" can be assigned only when the student has a medical condition; a job or military duty schedule conflict; or some significant personal event. 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.

#### **MAKE-UP WORK POLICY:**

All classes missed must be made up, regardless of whether the absences were excused or unexcused. Make-up assignments will be given by the instructor on an individual basis. A grade of "INC" can be assigned only when the student has a medical condition; a job or military duty schedule conflict; or some significant personal event. 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.

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#### **AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA):**

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>

#### **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. A good rule of thumb for correctly crediting a source is found in the citation below:

"Quotation marks should be used to indicate the exact words of another. Summarizing a passage or rearranging the order of a sentence and changing some of the words is paraphrasing. Each time a source is paraphrased a credit for the source needs to be included in the text. ... The key element of this principle is that an author does not present the work of another as if it were his or her own work. This can extend to ideas as well as written words." (Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 2001, p.349)

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. To avoid the pitfalls of plagiarism, students are strongly encouraged to review information on it available through Troy University Writing Center resources at <http://www.troy.edu/ecampus/onlinegraduateprograms/writingresources.htm> and at the link to the Purdue University Online Writing Lab.

**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.

For online journals go to <http://www.troy.edu/>; select “Library”; then “Services”; and finally “Remote Services/Databases”. At this point, you are required to put in your social security number to login to the databases.

Online databases include

OECD Statistics

<http://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx>

Correlates of War Project

<http://www.correlatesofwar.org/>

Measures of Political Freedom

<http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=1>

Compendium of Writing Systems

<http://www.omniglot.com/>

World Bank Data Catalog

<http://data.worldbank.org/data-catalog>

Military Statistics by Country

<http://www.nationmaster.com/cat/mil-military>

The HDI Index

<http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics/>