

**TROY UNIVERSITY**  
**TERM IV, AY 2012-2013**

**IR 6601 RESEARCH METHODS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Brendan M. Howe

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**AVAILABILITY:** By e-mail; or Saturday and Sunday, before or after class; or by mutually convenient appointment.

**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.

**OVERALL OBJECTIVE:** 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 and competence with:

1. Establishing a suitable research question:
2. Different methods of research and note-taking:
3. Carrying out a literature review:
4. Research design – dependent and independent variables:
5. Case study selection and design
6. Constructing a thesis framework:
7. Writing a balanced and well-structured thesis:
8. Logical thought progression:
9. Improved written communication skills:
10. Confidence in their ability to convey an understanding of the complex forces shaping contemporary international relations.

<b>COURSE REQUIREMENTS:</b>	Presentation:	30%	of the Total Grade
	Literature Review and Thesis Framework:	20%	
	Research Project:	40%	
	Participation:	10%	

**METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:** Lectures, Class Discussion, Literature Review, Thesis Framework, Student Oral Presentation and Feedback, Electronic Discussion with Instructor, Research Paper. Students to complete assigned readings before each session date upon which the instructor will answer questions in an open forum and give direction regarding the most important issues raised in the readings. Supporting lecture-based material distributed electronically by instructor.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:** Each enrolled student is expected to attend ALL class sessions. Students should complete the assigned readings BEFORE the relevant class session. NOTE: Excessive absences may result in either a failing grade or the need for the student to drop the course.

**MAKE UP POLICY:** In exceptional cases (for example, 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 as soon as possible meet 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.

**GRADE SCALE:**

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

**TEXTS:** Anol Bhattacharjee, *Social Science Research: Principles, Methods, and Practices 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* (Open Access Textbook: University of South Florida Scholar Commons, 2012). [http://scholarcommons.usf.edu/oa\\_textbooks/3](http://scholarcommons.usf.edu/oa_textbooks/3)  
**Note: this textbook may be downloaded for free.**

**Free downloadable guides for academic writing or:**

Brendan M. Howe and Heather A. Willoughby, *Introduction to Academic English Writing* (Ewha Womans University Press, 2005)

**Note: this textbook is available in major Korean bookshops at a low price as a service to students. Only to be purchased if students prefer a hard copy of a writing guide rather than those freely downloadable.**

**LIBRARY RESOURCES:** Students can access online information resources through Troy Library Services home page at <https://www.library.troy.edu>

These resources include a variety of full databases that provide complete article texts from thousands of journals, magazines and newspapers to aid students in their original research for class participation, presentations, and final research project. In addition, where necessary the Instructor will provide additional readings if they cannot be accessed through the Troy Library Service. Students are advised to read widely (beyond the set texts) and keep up to date on current affairs through multiple news media.

**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 PUBLICATIONS MANUAL of the AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION. Troy University’s “Standards of Conduct,” published in the TROY UNIVERSITY GRADUATE CATALOGUE, also should be consulted by students.

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENT RESEARCH PROJECT**

1. Each enrolled student will complete a graduate level research paper of 4,000-6,000 words of double-spaced text with appropriate citations and bibliography not included in the word count.
2. Use the PUBLICATIONS MANUAL OF THE AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION as your style guide for format and citations.
3. Papers are due no later than 17:00 Korea/Japan time on 15 May, 2012 by electronic submission.
4. During the fourth session students will select a theme for their project in consultation with the instructor.
5. The final Written Report will address a comprehensive case study highlighting a particular international governance issue including descriptive, predictive and prescriptive analysis.

6. Students will previously submit a literature review and thesis framework
7. During the appropriate student-led seminar each student will give an Oral and Visual/Multimedia Report lasting 20-30 minutes. During these seminars each presenter will be open to questions from their peers. Students will be well advised to encourage and to take advantage of these Q&A sessions in order to gain feedback for their final Written Report
8. Grades for the Literature Review, Thesis Framework, Oral Report and the final Written Report will form the Student Research Project Final Grade.

**SYLLABUS**

**TEXTS:** Anol Bhattacharjee, *Social Science Research: Principles, Methods, and Practices 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* (Open Access Textbook: University of South Florida Scholar Commons, 2012). [http://scholarcommons.usf.edu/oa\\_textbooks/3](http://scholarcommons.usf.edu/oa_textbooks/3)  
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<b>Sess- ion</b>	<b>Theme</b>	<b>Assignment</b>
<b># 1 27/04</b>	<b>Course overview</b> Advice on research, structure and presentation.  <b>Scientific Research</b> The nature of research; the foundations of knowledge.	<b>Bhattacharjee Chapter 1.</b> Also start reading whichever guide to academic English writing you have selected.
<b># 2 27/04</b>	<b>Concepts, designs, variables, and models.</b>	<b>Bhattacharjee Chapter 2.</b> Students come up with research topic.
<b># 3 28/04</b>	<b>The Research Process</b>	<b>Bhattacharjee Chapter 3.</b>
<b># 4 28/04</b>	<b>Gathering data and the literature review.</b>	Students disperse to conduct literature review – to be handed in at end of class. Students to produce framework by session # 5 having read <b>Bhattacharjee Chapters 4, 5, &amp; 9.</b>

# 5 11/05	Research Design, Case studies, interpretative and qualitative research.	Bhattacharjee Chapters 10, 11, & 12. John Gerring, "What Is a Case Study and What Is It Good For?" <i>American Political Science Review</i> 98, no. 2 (2004): 341-354.
# 6 11/05	Academic Writing and Production of Final Product	Guide to academic English writing should have been completed by this point. "Doing Good and Doing Well: Teaching Research Paper Writing by Unpacking the Paper," <i>Political Science and Politics</i> 41, no. 3 (July 2008): 595-602.
# 7 12/05	Student Presentations	Submission of First draft of project. Drafts distributed to other members of class for discussion.
# 8 12/05	Peer Evaluation and Problem-Solving Workshop	
# 9 15/05	Final Submission	Final Papers due by 17:00 Korea/Japan time on 15 May, 2013