

IR6601: Research Methods in International Relations

Term 3, 2012-2013: January 7 – March 10, 2013 3 Credit Hours

Location: Kadena AFB, Education Center

Meeting Times and Dates: 1800 - 2100, T/R

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Office Hours: By 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.*

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 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

- Brians, Craig Leonard, Jarol B. Manheim, Richard C. Rich, and Lars B. Willnat. Empirical Political Analysis, 8th ed. (Prentice-Hall, 2010). ISBN: 978-0205791217

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

On-line Resources that may be of help

- David Lane, Hyperstat Online Statistics Textbook, Available at <<http://davidmlane.com/hyperstat/index.html>>

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 and check it regularly as this will be the means of providing notice of assignment changes, class cancellations, or other matters outside of class.

A. Exams

There will be two exams in this course. The midterm will count for 25% of the course grade. The final exam will count for 25% of the course grade. Exams will include material covered in the readings and material discussed in class. Exams will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. Both exams will be in-class exams.

B. Homework and Quizzes

There will be a series of homework assignments and in-class quizzes accounting for a total of 25% of the semester grade. Homework assignments will be provided in class and will be due the next class meeting. Late assignments will be assessed a 20 point penalty. Quizzes, covering the daily reading assignments, will not be announced in advance.

C. Research Design

Students will be required to develop and draft a research design that will account for 25% 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. Detailed instructions will be provided in class. Draft paper sections will be turned in during the term according to a phased schedule provided in the paper instructions. Students will make presentations of these papers in class on **February 19, 2013**. Incorporating feedback from their presentations, students will turn in final copies of their papers in the class meeting on **February 28, 2013**. Papers turned in after class will be considered late. Late papers will result in lowering the paper grade by one full letter grade for each day it is late. E-mailed papers are not acceptable. Printed copies are required.

D. 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		

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 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. Troy University's definition and policy relating to plagiarism will be posted on the Blackboard course website. In this course, plagiarism or other forms of cheating, will result in an F for the course, will be reported to appropriate officials, and may subject the student to further discipline from the University. 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 <https://www.library.troy.edu> 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 <https://www.uclibrary.troy.edu/>

Course Schedule

Week 1

T 1/8 Course Introduction, The Research Process, Theories & Hypotheses

Reading: Text, Ch. 1&2; King, Keohane & Verba, "The Science in Social Science," Ch. 1 in Designing Social Inquiry. Available at <<http://press.princeton.edu/chapters/s5458.pdf>>

R 1/10 Theories & Hypotheses, Part II

Reading: Text, Ch. 1&2; Michael W. Mosser, "Puzzles versus Problems: The Alleged Disconnect between Academics and Military Practitioners." Perspectives on Politics 8, no. 4 (December 2010): 1077-1086. Available online via Google search.

Week 2

T 1/15 Creating a Research Plan, Literature Reviews, Sources; Writing

Reading: Text, Ch. 3&4; Lisa Baglione, "Doing Good and Doing Well: Teaching Research Paper Writing by Unpacking the Paper," PS: Political Science and Politics 41, no. 3 (July 2008): 595-602. Available in ProQuest.

R 1/17 Operationalization & Measurement

Reading: Text, Ch. 5

Week 3

T 1/22 Research Design

Reading: Text, Ch. 6; Rose McDermott, "Experimental Methods in Political Science," Annual Review of Political Science 5 (2002): 31-61.

R 1/24 Sampling, Survey, and Scaling

Reading: Text, Ch. 7-9

Week 4

T 1/29 Content Analysis, Comparative

Reading: Text, Ch. 10-13; 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.

R 1/31 **MIDTERM EXAM**

Week 5

T 2/5 Data Collection and Presentation

Reading: Text, Ch. 14-16;

R 2/7 Bivariate and Multivariate Analysis

Reading: Text, Ch. 17-18

Week 6

T 2/12 Multivariate Analysis, Part II

Note: Cal-Berkeley provides a website where you can select variables and run simple regressions on saved datasets, available at <<http://sda.berkeley.edu/archive.htm>>

R 2/14 Writing Research Papers

Reading: Text, Ch. 22.

Week 7

T 2/19 Student Paper Presentations

R 2/21 Multivariate Analysis Part III

Week 8

T 2/26 Qualitative Methods: Case Studies

Reading: John Gerring, "What Is a Case Study and What Is It Good For?" American Political Science Review 98, no. 2 (2004): 341-354.

R 2/28 **FINAL PAPERS DUE;** Qualitative Methods: Observation, Focus Groups, Interviews

Reading: Text, Ch. 19-21

For those interested in interviewing, see the symposium articles on interviewing published in PS: Political Science and Politics 35, no. 4 (2005): 663-688

Week 9

T 3/5 Review

R 3/7 **FINAL EXAM**

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