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Diplomacy Syllabi

School of Diplomacy and International Relations

Spring 2018

Investigating International Relations

Alireza Raisi PhD
Seton Hall University

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Seton Hall University
School of Diplomacy and International Relations
DIPL 3800AB: Investigating International Relations
Thursday 2:00 am-4:30 am in Alfieri Hall 122

Course Information:

Credit Hours: 1
Semester/Year: Spring 2018
Class Location: Alfieri Hall 122
Class Day/Time: Thursday
2:00-4:30

Office Hours: Wednesday 4-5 & Thursday 10-11 or appointment

Contact Information:

Professor: Alireza Raisi, Ph.D.
Office: McQuaid Hall 105
alireza.raisi@shu.edu

Course Objectives

What is political science? How does one scientifically study the political world? What contribution does political science make to a body of knowledge? the practice of politics? the political world? And why should you know this stuff?

This course is designed to develop those skills necessary for students to both conduct their own research and to critically evaluate the research of others. Rather than focusing on the memorization or “intake” of information and knowledge, this course will look at the elements of good science, sound research, and logical conclusions. The purpose of this course is not for students to attain or retain “new” knowledge, but rather to gain the tools necessary to be skilled researchers and consumers of knowledge. Class discussions will use required readings as a foundation for approaching questions regarding the nature, character, and practice of political science.

Learning Outcome

On successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Describe and assess the logic of international relation research in particular and of social science research in general;
- Comprehend the basic concepts, steps, and design involved in the systematic research process;
- Learn how to analyze data, communicate research findings and be an intelligent consumer of research.

Course instructional methods

The course will be taught using multiple instructional methods. These methods will include lecture, group discussion and oral presentations with an associated critical discussion. Typically, course topics will be introduced via lecture format incorporating interpretive discussions. Literature discussions will utilize small group discussions following by classroom presentation and discussion.

Course Materials

The textbooks that we will use for this course is the following:

Phillip H. Pollock III, 2016. The Essentials of Political Analysis, 5th edition, CQ Press. (NOTE: There is also a 3rd edition from 2008 that is a lot cheaper. However, there are some differences between the 3rd and 4th edition and I cannot guarantee that they are insignificant.)

Christopher Lamont, 2015, Research Methods in International Relations, CQ Press.

Phillip H. Pollock III, 2016. An SPSS Companion to Political Analysis, 5th edition, CQ Press. (NOTE: This book is NOT REQUIRED. However, we will be using SPSS and some students might find this helpful.)

GRADING:

Attendance and Participation = 10%

Assignments = 25%

Midterm Exam = 30%

Research Design Paper = 35%

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION: (10%)

Participation and attendance (10%):

It is my belief that you will learn things in class that you will not be tested on, so your grade should be higher if you attend regularly. In addition, engaging the material actively will help you learn it better than simply receiving it passively, so participation will be rewarded. Everyone needs to come prepared to discuss the readings.

Cell phones, pagers, etc.

Please turn off all cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices that could be distracting during class. If you have an emergency situation that requires you to be contacted quickly, let me know at the beginning of class, and an exception can be made.

ONE (1) RESEARCH PAPER (35%)

Research Design Paper:

The primary written assignment in this class is a 7 page minimum (double-spaced with 1” margins and 12 point fonts) research design. Papers should utilize one of the Chicago Manual of Style citation formats: Author-Date or Notes and Bibliography. The guidelines for these formats are on the course Blackboard page.

. This paper is due electronically at 5pm EST on the day final exam.

EXAM: One Midterm Exam (30%)

The examination will be held in class on the dates indicated in the course outline. It will be based on the material covered in the course up to that exam. The exams will consist primarily of essay-type questions, short answer or multiple choice.

Academic Integrity:

Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will be reported to the administration, and may result in a lowered or failing grade for the course and up to possible dismissal from the School of Diplomacy. See University and School standards for academic conduct here:

<<http://www13.shu.edu/offices/student-life/community-standards/upload/Seton-Hall-University-Student-Code-of-Conduct.pdf>>

<<http://www.shu.edu/academics/diplomacy/academic-conduct.cfm>>

Student with Disabilities:

It is the policy and practice of Seton Hall University to promote inclusive learning environments. If you have a documented disability you may be eligible for reasonable accommodations in compliance with University policy, the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and/or the New Jersey Law against Discrimination. Please note, students are not permitted to negotiate accommodations directly with professors. To request accommodations or assistance, please self-identify with the Office for Disability Support Services (DSS), Duffy Hall, Room 67 at the beginning of the semester. For more information or to register for services, contact DSS at [\(973\) 313-6003](tel:9733136003) or by e-mail at DSS@shu.edu.

Policy on Incompletes:

Incompletes will be given only in exceptional cases for emergencies. Students wishing to request a grade of Incomplete must provide documentation to support the request accompanied by a Course Adjustment Form (available from the Diplomacy Main Office) to the professor *before* the date of the final examination. If the incomplete request is approved, the professor reserves the right to specify the new submission date for all missing coursework. Students who fail to submit the missing course work within this time period will receive a failing grade for all missing coursework and a final grade based on all coursework assigned. Any Incomplete not resolved within one calendar year of receiving the Incomplete or by the time of graduation (whichever comes first) automatically becomes an “FI” (which is equivalent to an F). It is the responsibility of the student to make sure they have completed all course requirements within the timeframe allotted. Please be aware that Incompletes on your transcript will impact financial aid and academic standing.

NEED HELP?

That’s why I am here. Even though the course materials for this class are not terribly long, some of them may seem a bit difficult. *Don’t worry! You’re not alone!* The key is to let me know if you’re having trouble. You can drop by during my office hours or make an appointment for another time.

Course Outline

Week One
January 18

Introduction & Course Expectations

Week Two
January 25

From Pure Research to Policy Research

- Pollock Introduction
- Lawrence Neuman, "What Are the Major Types of Social Research?" in Social Research Method Pp25-53 (Blackboard)
- Max Abraham and John Glaser, "The pundits were wrong about Assad and the Islamic State. As usual, they're not willing to admit it". LA Times, December 10, 2017.
- Lamont Chapter4

Week Three
February 1

Competing Approaches in Social Science Research

- Lawrence Neuman "The Meaning of Methodology, in Social Research Methods" Pp90-123. (Blackboard)
- Lamont Chapter 1

Week Four
February 8

Research Design

- Christopher Lamont, "Research Question and Research Design" in Research Method in International Relations Pp30-49
- Lawrence Neuman, Potential Errors in Causal Explanation In Social Research Method, Pp184-192 (Blackboard)

Week Five
February 15

Qualitative Methods in International Relations

- Lamont Chapter 5
- Alexander George and Andrew Bennet. Process-Tracing and Historical Explanation. Pp 205-233. In Case Studies and Theory Development in Social Science (Blackboard)

Week Six
February 22

Case Study Research in International Relations

- Lamont Chapter 8
- Alexander George and Andrew Bennet. Case Study Methods and Research on the Interdemocratic Peace . Pp 45-54. In Case Studies and Theory Development in Social Science (Blackboard)

Week Seven
March 1

Midterm Exam

Week Eight March 8	No Class Spring Break
Week Nine March 15	Concepts and Variables / Intro to SPSS -Pollock Chapter 1, Pp3-17 & Pp 29-41
Week Ten March 22	Proposing Explanation, Framing Hypothesis -Pollock Chapter 3 & Pp 86-95
Week Eleven March 29	Holy Thursday- No Class
Week Twelve April 5	ISA Conference- No Class
Week Thirteen April 12	Foundation of Statistical Inference -Pollock Chapter 6 & Pp157-165
Week Fourteen April 19	Linear Regression (1) -Pollock chapter 8 Pp 184-197
Week Fifteen April 26	Linear Regression (2) -Pollock Chapter 8 Pp 197-209
Week Sixteen May 3	Mixed Method Research - Lamont Chapter 7

Research Design Paper is Due electronically at the Final Exam Day 5 pm