Seton Hall University

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School of Diplomacy and International Relations

Spring 2018

# DIPL 6310 NB Research Methods for Policy Analysis

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*Seton Hall University*

**Course Information:**
Credit Hours: 1
Semester/Year:Spring2018
Class Location: Alfieri Hall 123
Class Day/Time: Wed
7:35 pm – 9:45 pm
**Office Hours: Wednesday 4-5 & Thursday 10-11 or appointment**

**Contact Information:**
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## Course Objectives

This course is designed to introduce students to the skills for interpreting, conducting, presenting, and analyzing political science research. Over the course of the term, you will learn how to think like social scientists while developing various skills required by the discipline: how to choose which method to employ, how to undertake original research (complete with data collection and analysis), and how to present your findings to colleagues. The goal at the end of this class is to help you understand and conduct quantitative and qualitative political research that will be useful in both academic and professional settings.

## 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;
- Achieve an intuitive understanding on using statistical software for data analysis;
- 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 are the followings:

1-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, 4th and 5th edition and I cannot guarantee that they are insignificant.)

2-Alexander L. George, and Andrew Bennett, 2005. Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences, MIT Press.

3-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:

The School of Diplomacy does not award grades of D in graduate classes. Final grades below 70% will be entered into the gradebook as an F. Students must receive a grade of C or higher in 6310 in order to register for 6311.

**Attendance and Participation = 10%**
**Assignments = 25%**
**Midterm paper = 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 15 page minimum (double-spaced with 1" margins and 12 point fonts) research design. **This paper is due electronically at 5pm EST on the day final exam.** In this paper you will do the following:
- Develop an international relations research question

- Locate this question in the context of relevant literature (i.e. discuss the importance of the question both for theory and policy)
- Review the relevant literature on this topic
- Outline a strategy for answering this question addressing the following
  - Operationalize the dependent variable (or what's being caused)
  - Develop a series of alternative explanations for the outcome
  - Operationalize independent variables (or what's doing the causing)
  - Discuss case selection (what cases are you going to look at and why)
  - Develop a testing procedure (or, how you will test your arguments, and how you will know you are right)
- Offer a respectable bibliography comprised of academic research.

You are welcome to pick any topic you wish, so long as it is an international relations topic. If you wish to build on one of the examples, please discuss this with me. Changes in topics must be discussed with me in advance.

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.


**Midterm Paper: One Midterm Book Review Assignment (30%)**

This assignment gives students useful hands-on experiment with the case study methodology. Each student selects a book of interest that consists of a study of a single case or comparative cases. For this assignment, each student employs the requirements of case study methodology-covered in the class- as a basis for critiquing the chosen book's methodology. The findings of the analysis will be presented in a 7 page minimum book review paper.


**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 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

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| **Week One**<br>January 17 | **Introduction & Course Expectations** |
| **Week Two**<br>January 24 | **From Pure Research to Policy Research**<br>- Pollock Introduction<br>- Lawrence Neuman, "What Are the Major Types of Social Research?" in Social Research Method Pp25-53 (Blackboard)<br>-Max Abrahm 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. |
| **Week Three**<br>January 31 | **Competing Approaches in Social Science Research**<br><br>-Lawrence Neuman "The Meaning of Methodology, in Social Research Methods" Pp90-123. (Blackboard) |

-Richard Ashley "The Achievements of Post-Structuralism" Pp 240-254 in "International Theory: Positivism and Beyond" by Steve Smith and Ken Booth

**Week Four**
February 7

**Research Design**
-Christopher Lamont, "Research Question and Research Design" in Research Method in International Relations Pp30-49 (blackboard)
-Alexander George and Andrew Bennet. Designing Case Study Research. Pp 73-89. In Case Studies and Theory Development in Social Science

**Week Five**
February 14

**Qualitative Research Methodology**
-Alexander George and Andrew Bennet. Case Studies and Theory Development Pp1-25.
-Jennifer Milliken, 1999, The Study of Discourse in International Relations: A Critique of Research and Methods. *Europeans Journal of International Relations*. 5(2): 225-254.
-Alexander George and Andrew Bennet. Process-Tracing and Historical Explanation. Pp 205-233. In Case Studies and Theory Development in Social Science

**Week Six**
February 21

**Case Study and Case Selection**
-Alexander George and Andrew Bennet. How to do Case Studies. Pp 67-73. In Case Studies and Theory Development in Social Science

-Barbara Geddes. 1990. How the Cases You Choose Affect the Answers You Get: Selection Bias in Comparative Politics. *Political Analysis* 2:131-150.

-Andrew Bennett and Colin Elman. 2007. Case Study Methods in the International Relations Subfield. *Comparative Political Studies* 40(2):170-195.

-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

**Week Seven**
February 28

**Concepts and Variables / Intro to SPSS**
-Pollock Chapter 1, Pp3-17 & Pp 29-41
-Sarah Bush, The Politics of Rating Freedom: Ideological Affinity, Private Authority, and the Freedom in the World

Ratings, 2017, *Perspective on Politics,* 17(3) Pp711-16
ONLY

**Week Eight**
March 7

**No Class- Spring Break**

**Week Nine**
March 14

**Proposing Explanation, Framing Hypothesis**
-Pollock Chapter 3 & Pp 86-95
-Lawrence Neuman, Potential Errors in Causal Explanation
In Social Research Method, Pp184-192 (Blackboard)
*<Midterm Paper due>*

**Week Ten**
March 21

**Foundation of Statistical Inference**
-Pollock Chapter 6 & Pp157-165
-Roy Licklider. 1995. The Consequences of Negotiated
Settlements in Civil Wars, 1945-1993. *American Political
Science Review* 89(3):681-690.

**Week Eleven**
March 28

**Linear Regression (1)**
-Pollock chapter 8 Pp 184-197
-Alberto Alesina and Lawrence H. Summers. 1993. Central
Bank Independence and Macroeconomic Performance:
Some Comparative Evidence. *Journal of Money, Credit
and Banking.* 25(2): 151-162

**Week Twelve**
April 4

**No Class- ISA Conference**

**Week Thirteen**
April 11

**Linear Regression (2)**
-Pollock Chapter 8 Pp 197-209
-John A. C. Conybeare. 1983. Tariff Protection in
Developed and Developing Countries: A Cross-Sectional
and Longitudinal Analysis. *International Organization.*
37(3):441-467.

-Wayne Sandholtz and William Koetzle. 2000. Accounting
for Corruption: Economic Structure, Democracy, and
Trade. *International Studies Quarterly.* 44(1):31-50.

**Week Fourteen**
April 18

**Linear Regression (3): Regression Assumptions**
-William Berry 1993. Understanding Regression
Assumptions, Chapter 5 (Blackboard)
-Alan Agresti 2017. Regression Diagnostic. in Statistical
Methods for the Social Science. Pp426-435.

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| **Week Fifteen**<br>April 25 | **Logistic Regression Models**<br>-Pollock Chapter 9 Pp 215-233<br>-Paul Huth and Bruce Russett. 1984. What Makes Deterrence Work? Cases from 1900 to 1980. *World Politics* 36(4):496-526.<br>-Michael Ross. 2006. Is Democracy Good for the Poor? *American Journal of Political Science* 50(4): 860-874. |
| **Week Sixteen**<br>May 2 | **Mixed Method Research**<br>-Christopher Lamont, Mixed Method Research in International Research. In Research Method in International Relations. Pp113-125 (Blackboard)<br>-Alan Bryman, Mixed Method Research: Combining Quantitative and Qualitative Research Pp627-651. (Blackboard) |

**Research Design Paper Due Electronically at the Final Exam Day**