

Seton Hall University

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Diplomacy Syllabi

School of Diplomacy and International
Relations

Fall 2022

Investigating International Relations

R. Joseph Huddleston Ph.D.

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DIPL 3800: Investigating International Relations

School of Diplomacy & International Relations, Seton Hall University

AA: Mon & Wed 9:30 - 10:45 am (Muscarelle 208)

AB: Mon & Wed 11 - 12:15 am (Muscarelle 208)

Professor: R. Joseph Huddleston

Student Hours: Mondays, 1– 4 pm (McQuaid 105)

Email: joseph.huddleston@shu.edu

This syllabus is current as of August 29, 2022. You will be notified in class and/or by e-mail if the syllabus is updated.

Required Materials

Textbook: Johnson, Reynolds, and Mycoff. *Political Science Research Methods*.

I am teaching out of the 9th edition. Throughout the syllabus, I abbreviate this text as JRM. You will also be assigned academic readings accessible through Seton Hall’s library.

Stata software: Every exercise and assignment can also be completed through Excel, but it is probably better to learn Stata. As a Seton Hall student, you have free access to Stata. I suggest you install Stata as soon as possible, as we will have weekly Stata labs starting in Week 4.

Course Description

This class is an introduction to political science international relations research methodology. My main goal is to teach you the basics of creating and consuming research in the social sciences. The course will lead you through conceptualization and theory construction, the derivation of testable hypotheses, and a variety of methodologies that may be used to evaluate these hypotheses. We will discuss causal inference, observation and measurement, and other issues encompassing both qualitative and quantitative research methods. We will discuss the way in which academic articles in the social sciences are written, and how they should be read.

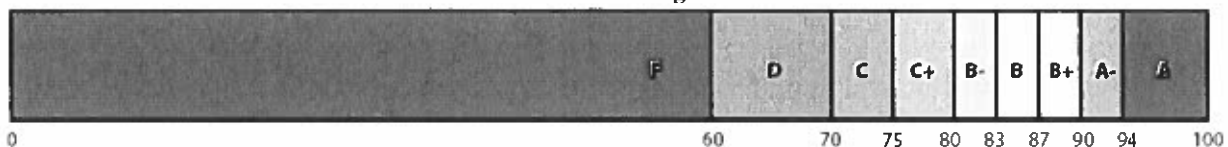
This course includes some basic statistics, and requires use of Stata (or Excel, or R, if you are ambitious) for some class assignments. These include some simple description and cross tabulation of original data.

This will be a demanding course. Research design is an enormous topic to cover in one semester. The volume of readings, videos, and other assignments may surpass many other courses.

Grading

Three homework assignments, 13% each	39%
One peer critique	10%
Research design paper	31%
Participation	10%
Weekly reading quizzes	10%

Course Grading Scale



advance. I would encourage you to consider the tractability of your project given the time frame you have. (Remember, highly ambitious projects take lots of time)

Homework assignments are **due electronically by the beginning of class on the date it is due**. Late assignments are docked 10% for each 24 hours following their respective deadlines. Assignments more than one week late will be given a 0.

Research Design Paper due Monday, Dec 19 at 11:59pm. Upload .docx electronically.

Peer Critique (10%)

You will read and critique another student's empirical strategy homework using the provided rubric. The goal is to practice applying the standards to evaluating someone else's work.

Guidelines for Homework, Research Design Paper, and Peer Critique

These assignments should be turned 12-pt Times New Roman font, double-spaced, with 1-in margins. Include a word count on the first page. Papers should utilize one of the *Chicago Manual of Style* citation formats: Author-Date or Notes and Bibliography.

Your assignments should be turned in as .docx documents. You will turn all assignments in through Teams, due electronically at the beginning of class on the listed date. I will grade your work, give you feedback, and assign your grades digitally.

Additional Notes

Healthy disagreement and discussion are a central component of this class. Constructive disagreement sharpens thinking, deepens understanding, and reveals novel insights. It is not just encouraged, it is expected. All viewpoints are welcome, but no ideas are immune from scrutiny and debate. There may be times when you disagree with someone else's opinion. It is important that you respond in an appropriate, respectful, professional, and constructive manner.

Meetings and Materials

Week 1 (8/30) **Introduction**
Mon, Aug 29
 Introduction: Course Outline and Semester Plans

Wed, Aug 31
 Wicked Problems and Why Research
 Required:
 - JRM Ch. 1

Week 2 (9/5) **The Scientific Method**
Mon, Sep 5 – No Class
 Add/Drop ends Wed., Sep 7

Wed, Sep 7
 Required:
 - JRM Ch. 2

- Viewing: [Nominal vs. Real GDP](#)
- Viewing: [Real GDP Per Capita and the Standard of Living](#)
- Viewing: [Michael Green TED talk](#)
- LinkedIn Learning “Introduction to Stata”
 - [Module 1: Getting Started](#), 25 min

ACTIVITY: Stata Lab (Be ready)

Wed, Sep 28

Required:

- Coppedge et al. 2011. “Conceptualizing and Measuring Democracy: A New Approach,” *Perspectives on Politics* 9(2), read pp. 253-257

ACTIVITY: Exercise and discussion on Operationalization, Measurement, and Validity

Week 6 (10/3)

All Research is Experimental

Mon, Oct 3

*****Research Question Homework Due*****

Required:

- JRM Ch. 9, read to p.182
- (SKIM) McDermott, Rose. “Experimental Methods in Political Science.” *Annual Review of Political Science*. 5(2002) pp. 31-39
- LinkedIn Learning “Introduction to Stata”
 - [Module 2: Exploring Data](#)
 - Sections 2.1 - 2.6: 27 min

ACTIVITY: Stata Lab (Be ready)

Wed, Oct 5

Required:

- Poverty Action Lab, 2 write-ups
 - [Women as Policy Makers](#)
 - [Deworming in Kenya](#)

Recommended:

- Raghobendra, Chattopadhyay, and Duflo Esther. 2004. “Women as Policy Makers: Evidence from a Randomized Policy Experiment in India.” *Econometrica* no. 5: 1409

*****Empirical Strategy Homework Distributed*****

Week 7 (10/10)

Sampling and Case Selection

Mon, Oct 10

Fall Break, No Class

Wed, Oct 12

Sampling

Required:

- JRM Ch. 5
- Viewing: [Sampling error introduction](#)
- Exercise: [Sampling Distributions](#)
- LinkedIn Learning “Introduction to Stata”
 - [Module 3](#)
 - Sections 3.1 – 3.7: 28 min

Mon, Oct 31

*****Empirical Strategy Homework Due*****

Required:

- (SKIM) Tomz, Michael. 2007 “Domestic Audience Costs in International Relations: An Experimental Approach” *International Organization* 61, no. 4.
- Huddleston, R. Joseph. 2019 “Think Ahead: Cost Discounting and External Validity in Foreign Policy Survey Experiments” *The Journal of Experimental Political Science* 5(2)

ACTIVITY: Class Project: Qualtrics Survey Experiment

Wed, Nov 2

ACTIVITY: Class Project: Qualtrics Survey Experiment

*****Peer Critique Instructions Distributed*****

Week 11 (11/7) Working with Data

Mon, Nov 7

- JRM rest of Ch. 9 (from p.182)
- JRM rest of Ch. 10 (from p.202)
- Viewing: [The Central Limit Theorem](#)
- LinkedIn Learning “[Introduction to Stata](#)”
 - [Module 4: Graphing in Stata](#)
 - Sections 4.5 – 4.7: 14 min

Wed, Nov 9

Required:

- Reading: JRM Ch. 11
- LinkedIn Learning “[Introduction to Stata](#)”
 - [Module 5: Basic Inferential Statistics](#)
 - Sections 5.1 – 5.2: 10 min

ACTIVITY: Stata Lab (Be ready)

*****Data Homework Distributed*****

Week 12 (11/14) Testing Hypotheses with Data

Mon, Nov 14

Required:

- Jenna Jordan. 2009. “When Heads Roll: Assessing the Effectiveness of Leadership Decapitation,” *Security Studies* 18(4)
- (SKIM) Paul Gill et al. 2014. “Bombing Alone. Tracing the Motivations of Antecedent Behaviors of Lone-Actor Terrorists.” *Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences* 59(2)
- Explore: Data Resources
 - [Seton Hall’s ICPSR subscription](#)
 - [Other SHU Data Resources](#)
 - [Dataverse \(Harvard\)](#)
 - [Jeremy Darrington’s Guide](#)

Wed, Nov 16

Required:

- Reading: JRM Ch. 12
- LinkedIn Learning “[Introduction to Stata](#)”

Mon, Dec 12 (last day of class)

*****Data Homework Due*****

Wrapping up

No readings

(12/14 – 12/20) **Finals**

Research Design Paper due Monday, Dec 19 at 11:59pm

Policies and Resources

- **Plagiarism, Cheating and 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://www.shu.edu/offices/student-life/community-standards/communitystandards.cfm>
 - <http://www.shu.edu/academics/diplomacy/academic-conduct.cfm>.
- **Counseling:** As part of our commitment to the health and well-being of all students, Seton Hall University's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) offers initial assessments, counseling, crisis intervention, consultation, and referral services to the SHU community. The CAPS office is located on the second floor of Mooney Hall, room 27. Appointments can be made in-person or by calling 973-761-9500 during regular business hours, Monday-Friday, 8:45 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. In case of a psychological emergency, call CAPS (973-761-9500) at any time to speak to a crisis counselor. For more info, please visit: <https://www.shu.edu/counseling-psychological-services/index.cfm>
- **Absences.** Students are expected to attend all class sessions and participate in discussions. If a medical situation or other emergency arises students should inform the professor via email at the earliest possible opportunity as to the reason for their absence. Unexcused absences will bring down your participation grade.
- **Grade Appeals.** Grades in this course are not negotiable. If you think an error has been made, you may contest the grade on an assignment up to one week after it is returned. Clerical errors and outright mistakes will be corrected; other grading decisions will not be revisited.
- **Late Assignments.** Students who anticipate not being able to turn in an assignment on time should let me know as soon as possible. Without prior communication, failure to turn in a paper on its due date will result in a grade penalty. All late papers (anything submitted after the deadline) will be penalized by 10% per 24hrs (i.e., a 100% A paper turned in one day late is an A- at 90%, two days late a B- at 80%, etc.). Assignments more than one week late will be given a 0. There may be exceptions made in cases of medical or family emergency or COVID-related issues.
- **Technology.** Students will be allowed to use laptop computers during class for the purposes of note taking only. All other activities (email, internet, Facebook, etc.) are prohibited during class. Students who violate this policy will forfeit their laptop privileges.
- **Accommodations.** 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