

Research Design for International Affairs: INTL 4000

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11a–12:15p TR
212 Baldwin Hall
Office Hours: W 2p–4p

Course Description: How does mass migration affect host countries' economies? Does organizing political events increase voter turnout? Why do some attempts at conflict mediation fail while others succeed? These are a small sample of questions political scientists are currently investigating, and like all other political science puzzles, researchers must have a solid understanding of research design and political methodology if they want to find the answer. This course introduces students to philosophy of science, research design, and quantitative analysis as applied to the study of comparative and international politics.

The first few weeks of the course examine topics from the philosophy of science and their relation to research on international and comparative politics. The rest of the course familiarizes students with basic concepts from statistics, and introduces them to the use of statistical software for data analysis and visualization. In the latter part of the course students will learn to perform data analysis, beginning with practical issues of data management. By the end of the course students will be comfortable performing analysis to examine relationships between variables, including cross-tabulation and linear regression. A large portion of students' grades will be determined by lab exercises that involve data analysis.

While this course is substantively focused on international relations and comparative politics, familiarity with IR/CP literature is not required, and students with research interests in areas other than IR/CP will get just as much from the course as IR/CP majors. Any social science student in the course will:

- Know how social scientists make observations, form research questions, and test their arguments.
- Be able to think logically through theories (arguments) to derive hypotheses.
- Be competent in data management.
- Be able to use statistical software for descriptive statistics, data visualization, and regressions.

Required Texts:

1. Agresti, Alan, and Barbara Finlay. 1997. *Statistical Methods for the Social Sciences*. Any edition.
2. Monogan III, James E. 2015. *Political Analysis Using R*.

Course Policies:

- **Reading**

- Yes, buy the books. Yes, it will be a problem for you if you don't have the books.
- You are expected to come to class having read the assigned readings. My lectures will assume you did so.

- **Exams**

- Exams will be 10–15 questions that will usually involve some quantitative reasoning and math. For exams I will provide necessary handouts, and you will be allowed to use a calculator. All exams will cover the lecture as well as assigned readings. The final exam is not cumulative.

- **Labs and Homeworks**

- We will have five lab sessions throughout the semester and four lab assignments (one will be spread out across two lab sessions). The assignments will require you to conduct statistical analysis using a software program called R.
- Lab time will be used to complete the assignments, and I will be available in the lab to answer questions. These assignments will all be due Friday by 5 p.m. the week they are assigned, so you will have some time outside of the lab to complete them if necessary.

- **Attendance**

- I do not include attendance as part of your grade. However, not attending class and/or labs will make it effectively impossible for you to succeed in this course.

Grade Distribution:

Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Final Exam	20%
Lab Assignment 1	10%
Lab Assignment 2	10%
Lab Assignment 3	10%
Lab Assignment 4	10%

Letter Grade Distribution:

≥ 93.00	A	73.00 - 76.99	C
90.00 - 92.99	A-	70.00 - 72.99	C-
87.00 - 89.99	B+	67.00 - 69.99	D+
83.00 - 86.99	B	63.00 - 66.99	D
80.00 - 82.99	B-	60.00 - 62.99	D-
77.00 - 79.99	C+	≤ 59.99	F

Academic Honesty Policy Summary:

In addition to skills and knowledge, COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY aims to teach students appropriate Ethical and Professional Standards of Conduct. The Academic Honesty Policy exists to inform students and Faculty of their obligations in upholding the highest standards of professional and ethical integrity. All student work is subject to the Academic Honesty Policy. Professional and Academic practice provides guidance about how to properly cite, reference, and attribute the intellectual property of others. Any attempt to deceive a faculty member or to help another student to do so will be considered a violation of this standard.

Tentative Course Outline:

The weekly coverage might change as it depends on the progress of the class. This syllabus can change as often as needed, but I will give you plenty of advance notice and issue an updated syllabus when any changes are made.

Week	Content
Week 1	<p>Thursday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – No reading.
Week 2	<p>Tuesday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Munck, Gerardo L., and Jay Verkuilen. 2002. “Conceptualizing and Measuring Democracy: Evaluating Alternative Indices.” <i>Comparative Political Studies</i> 35(1): 5-34. <p>Thursday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Russell, Bertrand. 1912. <i>The Problems of Philosophy</i>. Chapter 4 available online. – Oneal, John R., and Bruce M. Russett. 1997. “The Classical Liberals were Right: Democracy, Interdependence, and Conflict, 1950-1985.” <i>International Studies Quarterly</i> 41(2): 267-293.
Week 3	<p>Tuesday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Platt, John R. 1964. “Strong Inference.” <i>Science</i> 146(3642). – Schultz, Kenneth A. 1999. “Do Democratic Institutions Constrain or Inform? Contrasting Two Institutional Perspectives on Democracy and War.” <i>International Organization</i> 53(2): 233-266. <p>Thursday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Agresti and Findlay chapter 1 – Monogan chapters 1 & 2
Week 4	<p>Tuesday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Agresti and Findlay pp. 11–15 & chapter 3 – Monogan pp.33–40 and chapter 4. Class meets in computer lab. <p>Thursday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Monogan pp.33–40 and chapter 4. Class meets in computer lab.
Week 5	<p>Tuesday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Exam 1 <p>Thursday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Agresti and Findlay chapter 4

Week	Content
Week 6	Tuesday: – Agresti and Findlay chapter 4 Thursday: – Agresti and Findlay chapter 5
Week 7	Tuesday: – Agresti and Findlay chapter 5 Thursday: – Agresti and Findlay chapter 6
Week 8	Tuesday: – Agresti and Findlay chapter 6 Thursday: – Monogan chapter 5. Class meets in computer lab.
Week 9	Tuesday: – Review for Exam 2 in class Thursday: – Exam 2
Week 10	Tuesday: – Agresti and Findlay chapter 7 Thursday: – Agresti and Findlay chapter 7
Week 11	Tuesday: – Agresti and Findlay chapter 8 Thursday: – Agresti and Findlay chapter 8

Week	Content
Week 12	<p>Tuesday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Monogan chapter 5. Class meets in computer lab. <p>Thursday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Research Workshop Day (details to be provided)
Week 13	<p>Tuesday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Agresti and Findlay chapter 9 <p>Thursday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Agresti and Findlay chapter 9
Week 14	<p>Tuesday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Agresti and Findlay chapter 10 <p>Thursday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Agresti and Findlay chapter 11
Week 15	<p>Tuesday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – No reading. Class meets in computer lab. <p>Thursday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – No reading. Class meets in computer lab.