INST 3364: Research Methods in International Studies
Fall 2016
Malloy Hall 017
MW 3:10-4:25 pm

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Office Hours: Mon 5-6 pm; Tue 10 am-1 pm; Wed 10 am-12 pm, 5-6 pm (or by appointment)
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Course Description and Goals:

This course is an introduction to applying the tools of scientific inquiry to international studies. We will learn the basics of research design, hypothesis testing, and measurement and explore a number of different methodological approaches for answering intellectual questions including experiments, descriptive and inferential statistics, and qualitative analysis. We will analyze causal claims made in the media and popular discourse and evaluate whether or not such claims are based on evidence scholars find convincing. Students will be expected to demonstrate conceptual understanding of social science research and engage in rigorous scientific reasoning and critical thinking.

Course Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, students can expect to learn how to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the scientific method and be able to apply it in thinking about and discussing contemporary international studies.

2. Use contemporary social science research methods to analyze and better understand international phenomena.

3. Evaluate evidence offered in support of a causal claim.

4. Work as an independent researcher in the field of international studies.

Required Texts

There is no required textbook for this class and all readings will be posted to Blackboard.

Course Requirements and Grading Policy

Students will be assessed according to their knowledge of the course materials and their ability to analyze, explain, and apply their knowledge to new and different contexts. Students who are regularly prepared for lecture and active in discussion also tend to earn higher grades on their quizzes and exams.
You are expected to attend lectures and do all of the reading. The assigned materials should be read before class on the date that they are listed. Lectures and discussions will be based on the assumption that you have completed the reading for that day and are able to analyze the content.

- **Quizzes (10%)**
  I will randomly assign quizzes in the class for the purposes of checking your attendance and whether you have done your assigned readings. The format of these quizzes will be either ONE multiple-choice question or ONE true-or-false question. There will be 10 quizzes.

- **A Research Proposal (40%)**
  The purpose of this assignment is to help you acquire in-depth knowledge of a specific topic in the study of international studies that is of interest to you, and encourage you to apply the material you will learn in this course to provide a well-organized research design to examine that specific research question. There are five sections in this project:

  1. A one-page (minimum) research question statement (5%, due at **September 9**).
     In this assignment, you need to provide:
     - The research question (e.g., does economic development cause democratization, or how can we resolve the surge of transnational terrorism/ISIS?).
     - Context for your research question—what is happening in the world that makes you ask such question?
     - Why is this question important, and to whom is this question important?

  2. Five annotated bibliographies (5%, due at **September 30**). In this assignment, you need to provide:
     - Identify five academic works (academic journal articles and/or published book and book chapters) that directly relate to your research question.
     - Provide an annotation of each work including:
       (a) A summary of the theory/hypothesis and the findings of this research.
       (b) A reflection on the applicability to your project.
     - Each entry in your annotated bibliography should address the following items:
       (a) Thesis/research question
       (b) Basic theory underlying the work
       (c) Method used to reach conclusions (supporting material, literature reviewed, method)
       (d) Primary conclusions (stick to about three if many)
       (e) How this work will “fit” into your paper
     - Incorrect Annotated Bibliography—Too general, little detail, no findings:

     This book explores the Hunger Strikes that took place in the Northern Irish Prisons from October 1980 to October 1981, which resulted in
the death of 10 Irish prisoners. O’Malley discusses the hunger strikes, the reaction to them, the consequences of them and finally the legacy of them in the northern Irish conflict. The author investigates the hunger strikes through interviews with the priests who visited the striking prisoners, their families and neighbours, prison and government officials, and local politicians as well as by analyses of the media during this period.

– Correct Annotated Bibliography–Thesis, elaborates on theory, findings (but weak on method):


This article discusses the aftermath of a conflict and its effect on the next generation, their collective memory. It also focuses on the need to make use of the collective memory of the post-conflict generation in order that history won’t repeat itself and conflict arises again. Hoffman uses the South Truth and Reconciliation Committee as an example to prove that the “world of violence cannot be righted but it can be rectified.”

The author explains that systematic violence which is meant to humiliate such as torture is the worst kind that affects collective memory and the way it is interpreted could affect the resurgence or reduction of conflict. As the post-generation is the hinge between the past and future and much depends on how it turns from one to another. Therefore the method of transmission of these memories is important in order to “remember without hating”. When the author talks about post generation she defines it as the children of both the victims and the perpetrators, who through collective memory and guilt could re-start the conflict in a reverse manner where the children of the victim would turn on the children of the perpetrator.

The author concludes that the only way that remembering without hurting could occur is if there is dialogue between the children of the victim and perpetrator so that memory would be truly collective in the sense that each would hear the others memories as well would understand and identify with the other.

– Other templates of a good annotated bibliography can be found here: [https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/614/03/](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/614/03/).

– You are encourage to follow the format of the *American Political Science Review* and the *Chicago Manual of Style* for your citations and reference. The Center for International Studies does not require a unified citation style, and the only requirement is that you need to be consistent in the format you choose.

3. A three-page (minimum) literature/theory section of your research proposal (5%, due at October 21). In this assignment, you need to provide:
– A literature review based on your annotated bibliographies.
– A proposed theory that aims to answer your research question.
– Derive testable hypothesis(es) in accordance with your theory.

4. A three-page (minimum) research design (5%, due at **November 18**). In this assignment, you need to provide:
   – How do you plan to test your hypothesis(es)?
   – What are the sample and the unit of analysis in your analysis?
   – What are the dependent variable and independent variables in your analysis, and how do you measure them?

5. The final paper (20%, due at **December 9**). In the final paper, you need to provide:
   – Introduction and research question.
   – Literature review.
   – Theory and hypothesis(es).
   – Research Design.
   – Preliminary findings (e.g., summary statistics, bivariate correlations, figures).
   – Discussion and Expectation.
   – Bibliography/Reference.

Technical details:

– All the assignments need to be typed and uploaded to Blackboard under “Assignments.”
– You need to provide a title page for each of the submission.
– You need to cite at least 5 scholarly sources for your final paper. Online websites are not considered scholarly sources.
– You are encouraged to follow the format of the *American Political Science Review* and the *Chicago Manual of Style* for your citations and reference. The Center for International Studies does not require a unified citation style, and the only requirement is that you need to be consistent in the format you choose.
– The proper length of the final paper is 10 pages.
– All submissions need to be double-spaced, with Times New Roman 12 pt. font and 1 inch margins.
– You are encouraged to consult with me regarding the selection of the research topic and design.
– You are encouraged to consult with the data from *The Quality of Government Institute* ([http://www.qog.pol.gu.se/](http://www.qog.pol.gu.se/)), which incorporates various major datasets in the field of international studies. If you choose to conduct a quantitative analysis (or content analysis), you will be required to consult with me regarding the implementation of your analysis.
– Sloppy writing should be avoided.
– Proof-reading is strongly recommended before submission.

• **A Midterm Closed-Book Exams (20%)**
The midterm exam will be closed-book tests, given at **October 19**. The exam will
include multiple-choice, true-or-false, fill-the-blank, and short answer questions. The
questions will be drawn from the lectures and required readings.

• **A Final Open-Book Exam (30%)**
The final exam will be an open-book test, given at **December 12, 1:45-4:15 pm.**
You can bring your textbook, class notes, and calculator as your references. However,
all electronic devices (laptops, cell-phones, and etc.) are strictly prohibited in this
exam. The exam will include multiple-choice, true-or-false, fill-the-blank, and short
answer questions. The questions will be drawn from the lectures and readings from
the whole semester (cumulative).

• **Extra Credit**
Students are encouraged to participate in the speaker/lecture series
held by the Center for International Studies. Attending the lecture, and submitting a
one page response memo (double-spaced, 1-in margins, and Times New Roman font)
within ONE week after the lecture will grant TWO additional points to the final exam
score. Students can earn at most 10 addition points for their final exam.

**Policy on Missed Exams and Late Papers**

• If you have an “acceptable excuse” that causes you to miss an exam/quiz (e.g., illness
with a note from a doctor), contact your professor (me) within two business days of
the test (preferably contact me before the test) and a make-up exam will be scheduled.
Note that the format of the make-up exam/quiz may be different from the format of
the regular exam.

• If you miss a test/quiz and do not have an “acceptable excuse,” you will receive a 0
on the test/quiz.

• Late papers and exams lose a letter grade per day late (including both business and
non-business days). However, if you have an “acceptable excuse,” you will have extra
time to finish your assignments.

• If you are late for over three days (> 3, including both business and non-business days)
without an “acceptable excuse,” you will receive a 0 on the test/assignment.

**Grading Policy:**
The grade will be rounding to one decimal place. No additional rounding will be executed.

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\begin{align*}
A &= \geq 93 & B+ &= 87-89.9 & C+ &= 77-79.9 & D+ &= 67-69.9 \\
A- &= 90-92.9 & B &= 83-86.9 & C &= 73-76.9 & D &= 60-66.9 \\
&= 80-82.9 & C- &= 70-72.9 & F &= \text{Below 60}
\end{align*}
\]
**Academic Honesty:** Cheating will not be tolerated. You must write your own quizzes and exams. Plagiarism is a representation of another person’s work as your own (for example, directly quoting from another source without using quotation marks). See the University of St. Thomas regulations, “Scholastic Dishonesty.” If you plagiarize, or otherwise cheat, on any exam or assignment, you will be punished to the maximum extent possible. While some cross-pollination of ideas may occur, student papers must not be written in collaboration. Student papers of similar flow, structure, word-choice, and content will be treated in the same manner as if they were plagiarized.
Course Outline and Readings

Readings are expected to be done by the beginning of the lecture date of the topic.

1. August 22
   Course Overview

2. August 24-29
   Topic 1: Research in International Studies: Theories and Hypotheses
   Required readings:
   - Bruce Railsback’s (Department of Geology at the University of Georgia) class (GEOL 1122–Earth’s History of Global Change) note on “Science.”

3. August 31-September 7 [NO CLASS: September 5–Labor Day]
   Topic 2: Measurement: How Do We Measure Concepts?
   Required readings:

4. September 12-14
   Topic 3: Quantifying and Describing Data
   Required readings:
   - R tutorial for data analysis I.

5. September 19-21
   Topic 4: Understanding and Identifying Causality I: Introduction
   Required readings:

6. September 26-28
   Topic 5: Understanding and Identifying Causality II: Research Design
   Required readings:


7. October 3-5
Topic 6: Experiments, Quasi-experiments, and the Logic of Control
Required readings:

• Pollock, Philip., *The Essentials of Political Analysis*, Chapter 4.


8. October 10
NO CLASS: Fall Break

9. October 12-17
Topic 7: Controlling for Confounding Factors without Experiments
Required readings:


• “Examples of Spurious Relationships.”


10. October 19
The Midterm Exam

11. October 24-31
Topic 8: Survey Research
Required readings:


12. November 2-14
Topic 9: Probability, Statistical Significance, and the Uses of Inference
Required readings:

- R tutorial for data analysis II.

13. November 16-21
   Topic 10: Qualitative Study I: Case Studies  
   Required readings:

14. November 28-30
   Topic 11: Qualitative Study II: Historical Analysis  
   Required readings:
   - Capoccia, Giovanni, and R. Daniel Kelemen. 2007. “The Study of Critical Junc-

15. November 30-December 5
   Topic 12: Qualitative Study III: Content Analysis  
   Required readings:
   - Berg, Bruce L. *Qualitative Research Methods for the Social Sciences*, Chapter 11.

16. December 12 (1:45-4:15 pm)  
   The Final Exam