

# INTREL 613

## Research Methods and Analysis in International Relations

University of Massachusetts Boston  
Thu. 5:30-8:15PM, Location: M02-0421

Spring 2018

### Contact Information

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Office hours: Available by appointment

### Course Description

This course introduces basic concepts and skills necessary for students to carry out research and to interpret the research of others in the field of international relations. It discusses the stages of research: identifying appropriate questions and assessing existing literature; the challenge of framing questions and identifying the best research approaches for those questions; the problems associated with creating and evaluating data, whether quantitative or qualitative; and strategies for drawing defensible conclusions and identifying further areas for research.

### Course Requirements

This course is designed primarily for graduate students and will be run as a seminar, with only brief introductory remarks by me at the start of each class. Students are expected to do all the readings and to be prepared to discuss them. Your grade is based on four components: two exams (each worth 25 percent), class participation (worth 20 percent), and an original research proposal (worth 30 percent). The exams cover different sections of the material and are therefore not cumulative. The class participation component includes one class in which you will act as discussion leader, raising questions from the readings and generally making sure that everyone understands the key points from them. You will also make a brief presentation of your final research proposal during our last meeting.

## Important deadlines:

- Exam #1: *Thu. 3/8*
- Exchange proposals with your review partner: *Thu. 4/12*
- Provide feedback on your partner's proposal: *Thu. 4/19*
- Exam #2: *Thu. 4/26*
- Presentation of research proposal: *Thu. 5/3*
- Final draft of research proposal: *Thu. 5/10*

You are responsible for knowing the provisions of the UMB Academic Code of Conduct. Cases of suspected academic misconduct will be referred to the Deans' Office. See: [https://www.umb.edu/editor\\_uploads/images/life\\_on\\_campus/Code\\_of\\_Conduct\\_5-14-14.pdf](https://www.umb.edu/editor_uploads/images/life_on_campus/Code_of_Conduct_5-14-14.pdf)

## Required Texts

Booth, Wayne C., Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams, Joseph Bizup, and William T. FitzGerald. 2016. *The Craft of Research*. Fourth ed. Chicago: University Of Chicago Press.

Gerring, John. 2012. *Social Science Methodology: A Unified Framework*. Second ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Gerring, John. 2016. *Case Study Research: Principles and Practices*. Second ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Howard, Christopher. 2017. *Thinking Like a Political Scientist: A Practical Guide to Research Methods*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

Mosley, Layna, ed. 2013. *Interview Research in Political Science*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.

**Note: All other required readings will be distributed via E-mail.**

## Schedule and Required Readings

### 1 Introduction

#### 1.1 Course Overview (Thu., Jan. 25)

There are no assigned readings for this meeting.

## 1.2 Asking Good Questions (Thu., Feb. 1)

Discussion leader(s): Russell

Required reading:

- Howard, *Thinking Like a Political Scientist*, Chapters 1-3.

Further reading:

- Keohane, Robert O. 2009. "Political Science as a Vocation." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 42 (2): 359–363.

## 1.3 Generating Good Answers (Thu., Feb. 8)

Discussion leader(s): Nate

Required reading:

- Howard, *Thinking Like a Political Scientist*, Chapters 4-7.

# 2 Fundamentals of Empirical Research

## 2.1 Arguments and Analyses (Thu., Feb. 15)

Discussion leader(s): Matt

Required reading:

- Gerring, *Social Science Methodology*, Chapters 1-4.

## 2.2 Conceptualization and Measurement (Thu., Feb. 22)

Discussion leader(s): None

Required reading:

- Gerring, *Social Science Methodology*, Chapters 5-7.

Further reading:

- Adcock, Robert, and David Collier. 2001. "Measurement Validity: A Shared Standard for Qualitative and Quantitative Research." *American Political Science Review* 95 (3): 529–546.
- Collier, David, and James E. Mahon, Jr. 1993. "Conceptual "Stretching" Revisited: Adapting Categories in Comparative Analysis." *American Political Science Review* 87 (December): 845–855.
- Goertz, Gary. 2006. *Social Science Concepts*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Sartori, Giovanni. 1984. "Guidelines for Concept Analysis." In *Social Science Concepts: A Systematic Analysis*. Beverly Hills, CA: Sage.

## 2.3 Causation (Thu., Mar. 1)

Discussion leader(s): Maryanne

Required reading:

- Gerring, *Social Science Methodology*, Chapters 8-10.

Further reading:

- Fearon, James D. 1991. "Counterfactuals and Hypothesis Testing in Political Science." *World Politics* 43 (2): 169–195.

## **2.4 Exam 1 and *The Craft of Research*, Part I (Thu., Mar. 8)**

Required reading:

- Booth et al., *The Craft of Research*, Chapters 1-11.

Further reading:

- Brady, Henry E. and David Collier, eds. 2004. *Rethinking Social Inquiry: Diverse Tools, Shared Standards*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.
- Darian-Smith, Eve, and Philip C. McCarty. 2017. *The Global Turn: Theories, Research Designs, and Methods for Global Studies*. Oakland, CA: University of California Press.
- Gerring, John, and Dino P. Christenson. 2017. *Applied Social Science Methodology: An Introductory Guide*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Shively, W. Phillips. 2012. *The Craft of Political Research*. 9th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.
- Van Evera, Stephen. 1997. *Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.

## **3 Techniques**

### **3.1 Case Studies, Part I (Thu., Mar. 22)**

Discussion leader(s): George

Required reading:

- Gerring, *Case Study Research: Principles and Practices*, Chapters 1-6.

Further reading:

- George, Alexander L., and Andrew Bennett. 2005. *Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Mahoney, James. 2000. "Strategies of Causal Inference in Small-N Analysis." *Sociological Methods & Research* 28 (May): 387–424.

### **3.2 Case Studies, Part II (Thu., Mar. 29)**

Discussion leader(s): Taylor

Required reading:

- Gerring, *Case Study Research: Principles and Practices*, Chapters 7-11.

### 3.3 Surveys and Interviews (Thu., Apr. 5)

Discussion leader(s): Siya

Required reading:

- Brady, Henry E. 2000. "Contributions of Survey Research to Political Science." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 33 (1): 47–57.
- Mosley (ed.), *Interview Research in Political Science*, entire (esp. Chapters 1-4).

Further reading:

- Fujii, Lee Ann. 2012. "Research Ethics 101: Dilemmas and Responsibilities." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 45 (4): 717–723.
- Kapiszewski, Diana, Lauren M. MacLean, and Benjamin L. Read. 2015. *Field Research in Political Science: Practices and Principles*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Peabody, Robert L., Susan Webb Hammond, Jean Torcom, Lynne P. Brown, Carolyn Thompson, and Robin Kolodny. 1990. "Interviewing Political Elites." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 23 (3): 451–455.
- Tansey, Oisín. 2007. "Process Tracing and Elite Interviewing: A Case for Non-Probability Sampling." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 40 (4): 765–772.
- Wedeen, Lisa. 2010. "Reflections on Ethnographic Work in Political Science." *Annual Review of Political Science* 13 (May): 255–272.

### 3.4 Archival Research and Textual Analysis (Thu., Apr. 12)

Discussion leader(s): Leah

Required reading:

- Grimmer, Justin, and Brandon M. Stewart. 2013. "Text as Data: The Promise and Pitfalls of Automatic Content Analysis Methods for Political Texts." *Political Analysis* 21 (January): 267–297.
- Lee, Alexander. 2015. "How (and How Not) to Use Archival Sources in Political Science." *Unpublished manuscript*.
- Schreier, Margrit. 2014. "Qualitative Content Analysis." In *The SAGE Handbook of Qualitative Data Analysis*.
- "Symposium: Discourse and Content Analysis," *Newsletter of the American Political Science Association Organized Section on Qualitative Methods*, Spring 2004. Download: <https://www.maxwell.syr.edu/uploadedFiles/moynihan/cqrm/Newsletter2.1.pdf>

**Deadline to exchange proposals with your review partner**

### 3.5 Large-N Observational Analysis and Experiments (Thu., Apr. 19)

Discussion leader(s): None

Required reading:

- Druckman, James N., Donald P. Green, James H. Kuklinski, and Arthur Lupia. 2006. "The Growth and Development of Experimental Research in Political Science." *The American Political Science Review* 100 (4): 627–635.

- Humphreys, Macartan, and Jeremy M. Weinstein. 2009. "Field Experiments and the Political Economy of Development." *Annual Review of Political Science* 12 (1): 367–378.
- Mahoney, James, and Gary Goertz. 2006. "A Tale of Two Cultures: Contrasting Quantitative and Qualitative Research." *Political Analysis* 14 (3): 227–249.
- McDermott, Rose. 2002. "Experimental Methods in Political Science." *Annual Review of Political Science* 5 (1): 31–61.

Further reading:

- Angrist, Joshua D., and Jörn-Steffen Pischke. 2009. *Mostly Harmless Econometrics: An Empiricist's Companion*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Imai, Kosuke. 2017. *Quantitative Social Science: An Introduction*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

**Deadline to provide feedback on your partner's proposal**

### **3.6 Exam 2 and *The Craft of Research*, Part II (Thu., Apr. 26)**

Required reading:

- Booth et al., *The Craft of Research*, Chapters 12-17.

## **4 Class Presentations (Thu., May 3)**

There are no assigned readings for this meeting.

Further reading:

- Locke, Lawrence F., Waneen Wyrick Spirduso, and Stephen J. Silverman. 2014. *Proposals That Work: A Guide for Planning Dissertations and Grant Proposals*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Pzreworski, Adam, and Frank Salomon. 1995. *On the Art of Writing Proposals*. Brooklyn, NY: Social Science Research Council.

**Final draft of research proposal due via E-mail on Thu., May 10.**