

SPS 311 - RESEARCH METHODS

Sabanci University Summer 2018-2019

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Course Description and Objectives:

This course aims to teach how to conduct a scientific research in social science. This course also presents a platform to practice the process of research. This course is designed to equip the student with knowledge on important and necessary steps for scientific research and show how to conduct, analyze, and criticize social science research.

We will start with a discussion on what is good research and what is the process for good research. We will continue by introducing the critical issues of scientific research with a focus on the measurement and sampling. After evaluating these concepts, we will distinguish qualitative and quantitative research and read prominent examples of these methods. The last four weeks, we will focus on quantitative research methods and walk through the data collection and analysis processes. During the semester in discussion sessions, we will use STATA for managing and cleaning the data for statistical analysis.

Textbooks: This is a list of books that will be touched during the course. You need to consult them occasionally.

- Neuman, W. Lawrence. *Understanding research*. Pearson, 2016.
- Pollock III, Philip H. *The essentials of political analysis*. Cq Press, 2015.
- Kellstedt, Paul M., and Guy D. Whitten. *The fundamentals of political science research*. Cambridge University Press, 2018.

Tentative Course Outline

■ Introduction	July 1, 2019
■ The Scientific Study of Politics	July 3, 2019
■ Research Design - Research Question	July 8, 2019
■ Research Design - Literature Review and Research Proposal	July 10, 2019
■ Discussion Session: Stata Lab 1	
■ Holiday - No Class	July 15, 2019
■ Conceptualization, Operationalization and Measurement	July 17, 2019
■ Discussion Session: Stata Lab 2	
■ Sampling	July 22, 2019
■ Discussion Session: Stata Lab 3	

■	Qualitative Reserach Methods	July 24, 2019
	<i>Midterm</i>	July 29, 2019
■	Qualitative Research Methods (cont)	July 31, 2019
■	Statistical Analysis of Aggregate Data	August 5, 2019
■	■ Discussion Session: Stata Lab 4	
■	Hypothesis Testing	August 7, 2019
	■ Discussion Session: Stata Lab 5	
■	Holiday - No Class	August 12, 2019
■	Holiday - No Class	August 14, 2019
■	Bivariate and Multivariate Regression Analysis	August 19, 2019
	■ Discussion Session: Stata Lab 6	
■	Review for the Final Exam	August 21, 2019
	■ <i>Final Exam</i>	TBA

Grading Policy: Attendance and Participation (20%), Midterm (25%), Final (25%), Homeworks/Final Project (30%).

Grades will be given on a 100-points scale. Cumulative final grades will then be converted to letter grades at the end of the semester as follows:

90-100=A, 85-89=A-, 80-84=B+, 70-79=B, 65-69=B-,
60-64=C+, 55-59=C, 50-54=C-, 45-49=D+, 40-44=D,
0-39=F.

Student Responsibility:

1. Attendance and Participation: The class requires your active participation. Thus, you need to read the assigned readings before classes. The part of your grade on attendance and participation will be determined by quizzes, which will be at the end of *every* lecture.

These quizzes will be short and consist from one or two short questions based on the lecture.

You can miss 1 (one) class without any grade penalty. Each other missed class will result in a 2.5 points deduction in your final grade.

2. Exams: There will be a midterm and a final exam. The details of the exams will be introduced during the semester.
3. Assignments: You will hand in four assignments, which will eventually form a research project. With these assignments, it is expected from you to find a research question, determine the appropriate method, and explain the concepts related to the methods in detail. These assignments will be distributed in every two weeks.

Additional Reading Requirements: The assigned chapters from the books and additional readings will be announced.

Week 1a: Introduction (July 1, 2019)

- No readings

Week 1b: The Scientific Study of Politics (July 3, 2019)

- Kellstedt and Whitten, 2013, Chapter 1
- Neuman, 2014, Chapter 1

Week 2a: Research Design - Reserach Question (July 8, 2019)

- Kellstedt and Whitten, 2013, Chapter 2 and 3

Week 2b: Research Design - Literature Review and Reserach Proposal (July 10, 2019)

- Kellstedt and Whitten, 2013, Chapter 4
- Neuman, 2014, Chapter 2

Week 3a: NO CLASS (July 15, 2019)

Week 3b: Conceptualization, Operationalization and Measurement - 2 (July 17, 2019)

- Neuman, 2014, Chapter 5 and 6
- Kellstedt and Whitten, 2013, Chapter 5

Week 4a: Sampling (July 22, 2019)

- Neuman, 2014, Chapter 4
- Geddes, Barbara. 1990. "How The Cases You Choose Affect The Answers You Get: Selection Bias in Comparative Politics." *Political Analysis*. 2(1): 131-50.

Week 4b: Qualitative Research Methods (July 24- July 31, 2019)

- TBA

Week 5a: Midterm (July 9, 2019)

Week 6a: Statistical Analysis of Aggregate Data (August 5, 2019)

- TBA

Week 6b: Hypothesis Testing (August 7, 2019)

- TBA

Week 7a: NO CLASS (August 12, 2019)

Week 7b: NO CLASS (August 15, 2019)

Week 8a: Bivariate and Multivariate Regression Analysis (August 19, 2019)

- TBA

Week 8b: Review for the Final Exam (August 21, 2019)

- TBA