

Seton Hall University

eRepository @ Seton Hall

Diplomacy Syllabi

School of Diplomacy and International
Relations

Spring 2017

DIPL 6310 Research Methods for Policy Analysis

Martin S. Edwards PhD
Seton Hall University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarship.shu.edu/diplomacy-syllabi>

Recommended Citation

Edwards, Martin S. PhD, "DIPL 6310 Research Methods for Policy Analysis" (2017). *Diplomacy Syllabi*.
182.

<https://scholarship.shu.edu/diplomacy-syllabi/182>

DIPL 6310: Research Methods for Policy Analysis

Professor Martin Edwards
Email: martin.edwards@shu.edu
Office: 106 McQuaid
Office Phone: 973-275-2507
Office Hours: M 12-2 or by appointment

Course Objectives

This class is intended to accomplish two goals. First, this is a class for you to develop **tools** to pose questions and answer them in a social scientific fashion. Second, as this class is an essential prerequisite to DIPL 6311, you will finish this class having developed a **template** for your master's research project.

To accomplish this first goal, we will spend the bulk of class time on understanding both qualitative and quantitative research. The second goal is one of application, as you will use insights picked up throughout the class to produce a research design of your own for use in DIPL 6311.

It is worth stressing that this class will be daunting. I will work at a pace faster than other sections, and I will cover more material. You may find this material a challenge. This is not because the material is impossible, but rather because it involves thinking in new and unaccustomed ways. The second part of the course involves a great deal of math, which many of us have avoided.

Course Materials

The textbook that we will use for this course is the following:

Janet B. Johnson, H.T. Reynolds, and Jason Mycoff. 2016. *Political Science Research Methods* 8th Edition. SAGE/CQ Press. ISBN: 9781506307824

Copies of this textbook will be available in the Walsh Library both for checkout and on reserve. Ms. Susan Malcolm in the Diplomacy office also has a copy of this text for checkout.

Additional readings will be available on Blackboard.

In addition, we will be using SPSS, which is an industry standard statistical software package, to complete the last four assignments. Students will be provided with a link to download a free version of the software as part of the university's site license following the end of the drop-add period.

University computers equipped with SPSS can be found either in the information commons area of the library on the second floor or at one of the public computer labs (Jubilee 524 or Nursing 203).

Evaluation

Your grade will be comprised of the following. More information on each of these is available on the last page of the syllabus.

Homework Assignments (6 total – 6 @ 10% each)
Research Design (40% of grade)

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of the semester, students should have acquired knowledge and understanding of: key concepts, models, theories, and debates involved in the study of contemporary international relations and diplomacy and the social science research process. Students should also have developed the skills to: collect, sort, and evaluate information; analyze complex situations and synthesize information; integrate different fields of study in analysis of a complex world; and communicate effectively in oral and written form.

Other Course Policies

Late work: Late work will not be accepted.

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://www13.shu.edu/offices/student-life/community-standards/upload/Seton-Hall-University-Student-Code-of-Conduct.pdf>

<http://www.shu.edu/academics/diplomacy/academic-conduct.cfm>

Participation: Students are expected to be actively involved in learning in this class. I will rely heavily on in-class discussion and will employ the Socratic method from time to time as a means of drawing out discussion.

Duplication: Students are required to submit original work for the research design.

Policy on Homework Submission: Assignments 4, 5, and 6 must be typed and submitted as a single document.

Note on library issues: Successful completion of the research design will require you to use considerable library research. Please note the following: 1) Wikipedia is not acceptable as a valid source of information and as such should not be cited;¹ 2) I will not assign the pages from Chapter 3 of the Johnson text which deal with writing a literature review, but you will find this helpful. 3) If you have further library questions, you should discuss them with Diplomacy's library liaison, Lisa DeLuca (lisa.deluca@shu.edu).

Accommodation: 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.

¹ <http://chronicle.com/wiredcampus/article/1328/wikipedia-founder-discourages-academic-use-of-his-creation>

Grading: The School of Diplomacy does not award grades of D in graduate classes. Final grades below 70% will be entered into the gradebook as an F. Students must receive a grade of C or higher in 6310 in order to register for 6311.

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 new submission date for all missing coursework. Students who fail to submit the missing course work within this time period will receive a failing grade for all missing coursework and a final grade based on all coursework assigned. Any Incomplete not resolved within one calendar year of receiving the Incomplete or by the time of graduation (whichever comes first) automatically becomes an “FI” (which is equivalent to an F). It is the responsibility of the student to make sure they have completed all course requirements within the timeframe allotted. Please be aware that Incompletes on your transcript will impact financial aid and academic standing.

Schedule of Assignments

Week One

January 11

Introduction

Week Two

January 18

Scientific Method / How to Ask Questions

JRM: Chapter 1, pages 1-14, 22-25, 40-44 and Chapter 2.

Week Three

January 25

Research Design Fundamentals

JRM: Chapter 3, pages 74-82 and Chapter 4, pages 104-121.

Stephen M. Walt. 1988. Testing Theories of Alliance Formation: The Case of Southwest Asia. *International Organization* 42(2): 275-277 **ONLY**.

Martin S. Edwards, Kevin M. Scott, Susan Hannah Allen and Kate Irvin. 2008. Sins of Commission? Understanding Membership Patterns on the UN Human Rights Commission. *Political Research Quarterly* 61(3): 390-393 **ONLY**.

Week Four

February 1

Concepts and Variables

JRM: Chapter 4, pages 121-126 and Chapter 5, pages 128-145.

Martha Finnemore. 1993. International Organizations as Teachers of Norms. *International Organization* 47: 565-576 **ONLY**.

John J. Mearsheimer *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics* (WW Norton, 2001), Chapter 9.

Yoram Haftel and Alexander Thompson. 2006. The Independence of International Organizations. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 50(2):253-265 **ONLY**.

Week Five
February 8

Case Selection

JRM: Chapter 6, pages 166-171 and 195-203.

Barbara Geddes. 1990. How the Cases You Choose Affect the Answers You Get: Selection Bias in Comparative Politics. *Political Analysis* 2:131-150.

Ronald Mitchell. 1994. Regime Design Matters. *International Organization* 48(3):425-435 **ONLY**.

Week Six
February 15

Building Qualitative Research Designs / Intro to SPSS

David M. Edelstein. 2004. Occupational Hazards: Why Military Occupations Succeed or Fail. *International Security* 29(1):49-91.

Andrew Bennett and Colin Elman. 2007. Case Study Methods in the International Relations Subfield. *Comparative Political Studies* 40(2):170-195.

Week Seven
February 22

Sampling and Inference

JRM: Chapter 7 and Chapter 11, pages 348-368.

Week Eight
March 1

No Class Scheduled. Sign up for individual meetings with me.

MARCH 8

SPRING BREAK

Week Nine
March 15

T-tests and Crosstabs

JRM: Chapter 12 and Chapter 13, pages 412-449.

Roy Licklider. 1995. The Consequences of Negotiated Settlements in Civil Wars, 1945-1993. *American Political Science Review* 89(3):681-690.

Week Ten
March 22

Correlation and Regression

JRM: Chapter 13, pages 492-496, 478-492, 496-513.

Week Eleven
March 29

Multiple Regression 1

JRM: Chapter 14, pages 516-559.

Alberto Alesina and Lawrence H. Summers. 1993. Central Bank Independence and Macroeconomic Performance: Some Comparative Evidence. *Journal of Money, Credit and Banking*. 25(2): 151-162

Week Twelve

April 5

Multiple Regression 2

John A. C. Conybeare. 1983. Tariff Protection in Developed and Developing Countries: A Cross-Sectional and Longitudinal Analysis. *International Organization*. 37(3):441-467.

Wayne Sandholtz and William Koetzle. 2000. Accounting for Corruption: Economic Structure, Democracy, and Trade. *International Studies Quarterly*. 44(1):31-50.

Week Thirteen

April 12

Regression Applications / Logistic Regression

JRM: Chapter 14, pages 516-559.

Michael Ross. 2006. Is Democracy Good for the Poor? *American Journal of Political Science* 50(4): 860-874.

Week Fourteen

April 19

Logistic Regression Models

JRM: Chapter 14, pages 559-581.

Paul Huth and Bruce Russett. 1984. What Makes Deterrence Work? Cases from 1900 to 1980. *World Politics* 36(4):496-526.

Week Fifteen

April 26

Open Date

NOTE: Selected assignments for this course will need to be uploaded to Blackboard. More information on how to do this is available at

http://blogs.shu.edu/techtips/files/safeassign_student.pdf

Homework Assignments

There will be six homework assignments addressing the following topics:

- Research Design Problem Statement (10%)
- Variable Operationalization (10%)
- T-Tests and Crosstabs (10%)
- Correlation (10%)
- Multiple Regression (10%)
- Logistic Regression (10%)

Homework #1: Problem Statement Assignment:**Due at the start of class on February 1.**

In a minimum of three double spaced typed pages with standard margins and fonts (1", 12 point), develop a question that you would like to research. You must do three things:

- Make certain that it is clear what your question is
- Address why your question is *theoretically* important
- Address why your question why is important *for policymakers*

I expect your bibliography to have a minimum of six sources.

**Homework #2: Variable Operationalization Assignment:
Due at the start of class on February 15.**

In a minimum of four double spaced typed pages with standard margins and fonts (1", 12 point), address the following:

- *Briefly* (no more than a paragraph) summarize your research question
- Discuss how other scholars have operationalized the dependent variable that forms the basis of your study.
- Discuss how you will operationalize the dependent variable in your study (concept, measure, and source).

I expect your bibliography to have a minimum of ten sources.

Research Design Paper:

The primary written assignment in this class is a 15 page minimum (double-spaced with 1" margins and 12 point fonts) research design. **This paper is due electronically at 12 noon EST on May 5th.** In this paper you will do the following:

- Develop an international relations research question
- Locate this question in the context of relevant literature (i.e. discuss the importance of the question both for theory and policy)
- Review the relevant literature on this topic
- Outline a strategy for answering this question addressing the following
 - Operationalize the dependent variable (or what's being caused)
 - Develop a series of alternative explanations for the outcome
 - Operationalize independent variables (or what's doing the causing)
 - Discuss case selection (what cases are you going to look at and why)
 - Develop a testing procedure (or, how you will test your arguments, and how you will know you are right)
- Offer a respectable bibliography comprised of academic research.

You are welcome to pick any topic you wish, so long as it is an international relations topic. If you wish to build on one of the examples, please discuss this with me. Changes in topics must be discussed with me in advance.