

Seton Hall University

eRepository @ Seton Hall

---

Diplomacy Syllabi

School of Diplomacy and International  
Relations

---

Fall 2015

## DIPL 3800 Investigating International Relations

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 3800 Investigating International Relations" (2015). *Diplomacy Syllabi*. 245.  
<https://scholarship.shu.edu/diplomacy-syllabi/245>

## **DIPL 3800: Investigating International Relations**

Professor Martin Edwards  
Email: martin.edwards@shu.edu  
Office: 106 McQuaid  
Office Phone: 973-275-2507  
Office Hours: M-W 12:30-2

### **Course Objectives**

This class is intended to accomplish two goals. First, this is a class for you to develop **tools** to pose empirical questions and answer them in a social scientific fashion. Second, as this class is an essential prerequisite to DIPL 4101, you will finish this class having developed a **template** for your senior 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 – you will use insights picked up throughout the class to produce a research design of your own for use in DIPL 4101.

It is worth stressing that this class will be daunting. We will work at a pace faster than other sections, and we will cover more material. *Graduate students* often find this material a challenge. This is not because the material is impossible – but rather because it involves thinking in unaccustomed ways. The second part of the course also involves a great deal of math, which many of us were taught to avoid.

### **Course Materials**

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

Janet B. Johnson and H.T. Reynolds. 2012 *Political Science Research Methods* 7<sup>th</sup> Edition. SAGE/CQ Press. ISBN: 978-1-60781-689-0.

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.

An additional set of readings will be available on Blackboard.

In addition, we will be using SPSS, which is a standard statistics package. Please be advised that you will need to have the latest version of SPSS installed on your PCs. This can be done at the PC Support office in the Corrigan Hall basement.

### **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 – 2@ 5% each; 4 @ 10% each)  
Research Design (50% of grade)

### **Other Course Policies**

*Late work:* Late work will be penalized with a deduction of one letter grade per day.

*Academic Integrity:* Cases of cheating or plagiarism will be handled according to procedures outlined in the Diplomacy School Academic Integrity Policy. Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will be reported to the administration, and will result in a 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://www.shu.edu/offices/student-life/community-standards/community-standards.cfm>  
<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.

*Accommodation:* Students with disabilities should contact Disabilities Support Services for special accommodations. Under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Civil Rights Restoration Act, students at Seton Hall University who have a disability may be eligible for accommodations in this course. Should a student require such accommodation, he or she must self-identify at the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS), Room 67, Duffy Hall, provide documentation of said disability, and work with DSS to develop a plan for accommodations. The contact person is Ms. Diane Delorenzo at (973) 313-6003.

*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;<sup>1</sup> 2) I will not assign Chapter 3 of the Johnson text (which deals 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).

## Schedule of Assignments

<b>Week One</b> August 31	<b>Scientific Method / How to Ask Questions</b> Introduction
September 2	JR: Chapter 1, pages 1-5, 14-17, 27-29 and Chapter 2.
<b>Week Two</b> September 7	<b>Research Design Fundamentals</b> LABOR DAY – NO CLASS
September 9	JR: Chapter 3, pages 74-81.
<b>Week Three</b> September 14	<b>More Fundamentals/Concepts and Variables</b> JR: Chapter 4, pages 102-119, and the following:

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

- 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. Sins of Commission? Understanding Membership Patterns on the UN Human Rights Commission. Forthcoming, *Political Research Quarterly* Pages 1-3 **ONLY**.
- September 16 JR: Chapter 4, pages 119-124 and Chapter 5, pages 127-144.
- Week Four**  
September 21 **Concepts and Variables**  
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.
- September 23 Yoram Haftel and Alexander Thompson. 2006. The Independence of International Organizations. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 50(2):253-265  
**ONLY**.
- Week Five**  
September 28 **Case Selection**  
JR: Chapter 6, pages 165-170 and 194-204.
- Ronald Mitchell. 1994. Regime Design Matters. *International Organization* 48(3):425-435 **ONLY**.
- September 30 Barbara Geddes. 1990. How the Cases You Choose Affect the Answers You Get: Selection Bias in Comparative Politics. *Political Analysis* 2:131-150.
- Week Six**  
October 5 **Building Qualitative Research Designs / Descriptive Statistics**  
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.
- October 7 Intro to SPSS. Bring your computers to class!
- Week Seven**  
October 12 **Sampling and Inference**  
FALL BREAK – NO CLASS
- October 14 JR: Chapter 11, pages 354-376.

<b>Week Eight</b>	<b>Sampling and Inference / T-tests</b>
October 19	JR: Chapter 7
October 21	JR: Chapter 12.
<b>Week Nine</b>	<b>Crosstabs and Correlation</b>
October 26	JR: Chapter 13, pages 428-463.
	Roy Licklider. 1995. The Consequences of Negotiated Settlements in Civil Wars, 1945-1993. <i>American Political Science Review</i> 89(3):681-690.
October 28	<b>OPEN DATE: Sign up for individual meetings with me.</b>
<b>Week Ten</b>	
November 2	<b>OPEN DATE: Sign up for individual meetings with me.</b>
November 4	<b>OPEN DATE: Sign up for individual meetings with me.</b>
<b>Week Eleven</b>	<b>Correlation and Regression</b>
November 9	JR: Chapter 13, pages 463-521.
November 11	Alberto Alesina and Lawrence H. Summers. 1993. Central Bank Independence and Macroeconomic Performance: Some Comparative Evidence. <i>Journal of Money, Credit and Banking</i> . 25(2): 151-162
<b>Week Twelve</b>	<b>Multiple Regression 1</b>
November 16	JR: Chapter 14, pages 527-568.
November 18	John A. C. Conybeare. 1983. Tariff Protection in Developed and Developing Countries: A Cross-Sectional and Longitudinal Analysis. <i>International Organization</i> . 37(3):441-467.
<b>Week Thirteen</b>	<b>Multiple Regression 2</b>
November 23	Wayne Sandholtz and William Koetzle. 2000. Accounting for Corruption: Economic Structure, Democracy, and Trade. <i>International Studies Quarterly</i> . 44(1):31-50.
November 25	Thanksgiving - NO CLASS
<b>Week Fourteen</b>	<b>Regression Applications</b>
November 30	NO CLASS
December 2	Michael Ross. 2006. Is Democracy Good for the Poor? <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> 50(4): 860-874.
<b>Week Fourteen</b>	<b>Logistic Regression Models</b>
December 7	JR: Chapter 14, pages 568-590.
December 9	JR: Chapter 14, pages 568-590.

December 14

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

## Particulars on Assignments

### Homework Assignments

There will be six homework assignments addressing the following topics:

- Research Design Problem Statement (5%)
- Variable Operationalization (5%)
- 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 Monday September 21.**

In a minimum of one double spaced typed page 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*

#### Homework #2: Variable Operationalization Assignment:

**Due at the start of class on Wednesday October 7.**

In a minimum of three 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.

#### 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 Thursday December 17th.** 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)
- 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 in advance. Changes in topics must be discussed with me in advance.