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Diplomacy Syllabi

School of Diplomacy and International  
Relations

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Fall 2019

## DIPL 3800 AA Investigating International Relations

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*Seton Hall University*

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**DIPL 3800AA- Fall 2019**  
**Investigating International Relations**

**Tuesday and Thursday 9:30AM – 10:45PM**

**Instructor Name. Dr. Binneh s Minteh**  
**Office: TBA**  
**Office Hours: Friday 11:00am -12:30pm**

**Phone: (862) 235-7055**  
**Email:binneh.minteh@shu.edu**  
**Classroom: Stafford Hall 207**

**Course description**

The course introduces the basic tools of scientific investigation. Students learn about the scientific method, data gathering, research design, quantitative and qualitative analysis, and computer applications for international relations research. The course aims to equip students with the facts, intuition, and experience necessary for conducting research projects in subsequent diplomacy courses.

**Course objectives**

On successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Describe and assess the logic of social science research in particular and of scientific research in general;
- Comprehend the basic concepts, steps, and design of qualitative in addition to quantitative and statistical methods;
- Achieve an intuitive understanding on using statistical software for data analysis;
- Learn how to analyze data, communicate research findings and be an intelligent consumer of research.

**Course instructional methods**

The course will be taught using multiple instructional methods. These methods will include lecture, group discussion and oral presentations with an associated critical discussion. Typically, course topics will be introduced via lecture format incorporating interpretive discussions. Literature discussions will utilize small group discussions following by classroom presentation and discussion.

### Course required text and materials

Janet, Reynold, Mycoff (2016): Political Science Research Methods 8th Edition. SAGE/CQ Press

We will be using a statistical software package called SPSS. Students may use university computers -equipped with SPSS either in the information commons area of the library on the second floor or at one of the public computer labs. You may want to purchase the software; it is available here: <http://www.onthehub.com/spss/> . Alternatively, there is an open-source statistical package apparently very similar to SPSS. It is called PSPP and is available here: <http://www.gnu.org/software/pspp/> . If you choose to rent, purchase, or download software, I am not responsible for its functionality.

We will also use a free on-line course on Probability and Statistics from the Open Learning Initiative. This is analogous to an interactive reading assignment. It is essential that you complete these modules before class. I will be covering to some extent the lessons from these modules during class and illustrating them using examples but I will not repeat everything. That is: I will assume during lectures that you have completed the modules.

You can learn more about the course and sign up here: <http://oli.cmu.edu/courses/free-open/statistics-course-details/>

### Requirements and Grading

#### Grading: 500 points

Course Components	Possible Points
Attendance/ Participation (10%)	50
Homework Assignments (45%)	150
Mid-Term Exam (15%)	100
Research Design Paper (30%)	200

Letter Grade
As = $\geq 90\%$
Bs = $\geq 80\%$
Cs = $\geq 70\%$
Ds = $\geq 60\%$

### Attendance and Participation

Active and informed participation in class discussion and activities is extremely important. The grade for participation includes the grade for in-class quizzes and debates. Students will be assigned discussion groups at the beginning of the semester. At the end of the semester, students will rate the other members of their discussion group on the quality of their participation and this will be factored into the grade. Also, students may not use their laptop or other electronic device during active class time (this does not include any mid-class breaks).

## **Homework Assignments**

There will be six homework assignments addressing the following topics:

- Research Design Problem Statement (20)
- Variable Operationalization (20)
- Review of Literature (20)
- Sampling and Inference (30)
- Testing hypothesis -Tests and Crosstabs (30)
- Regression Analysis (30)

Guidelines for Assignments 1, 2, and 3 are already provided for students in advance. Homework assignments 4- 6 will be provided for students as the semester progresses.

### ***Homework #1: Problem Statement and Hypothesis Assignment (20 Points)***

Due on Blackboard September 19, 2019

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

- Make your question and hypothesis very clear
- Address why your question is theoretically important
- Address how your question and hypothesis is important for policymakers

I expect your bibliography to have a minimum of six sources

### ***Homework #2: Literature Review (20 Points)***

In a minimum of 2-3 pages write a literature review about your research topic. A good literature review should focus on:

- Core concepts, ideas and methods that are relevant to the research topic.
- An analysis of how other scholars have measured your variables and how you intend to measure the variables relevant to your research.

Due on Blackboard September 26, 2019

### ***Homework #3: Variable Operationalization Assignment (20 Points)***

Due on Blackboard March 10, 2019

In a minimum of four double spaced typed pages with standard margins and fonts (12, 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 eight sources.

***Homework # 4: Sampling and Inference (30 Points)***

Due on Blackboard October 24, 2019

***Homework # 5: Testing Hypothesis (30 Points)***

Due on Blackboard November 26, 2019

***Homework # 6: Regression Analysis (30 Points)***

Due on Blackboard December 12, 2019

**Mid-Term Exam -**

Mid-Term examination will be taken in class on 10/10/2019. Students will be required to answer **multiple choice, true or false and short answer questions**. The exam is designed to test students' knowledge of material covered in the first half of the course.

**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 **December 17, 2019**. 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

**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.

### **Communications Policy**

The primary mode of communication between students and instructor is by email and by phone. I will endeavor to respond to email within 48 hours, but usually I will be able to do so within 24 hours. You can also reach me by phone.

### **Accommodations Policy**

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](tel:9733136003) or by e-mail at [DSS@shu.edu](mailto:DSS@shu.edu).

### **Academic Integrity & Dishonesty**

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: <https://www.shu.edu/student-life/upload/Student-Code-of-Conduct.pdf> and <http://www.shu.edu/academics/diplomacy/academic-conduct.cfm>

### **Citation Formats (some version of the paragraph below)**

Papers should utilize one of the Chicago Manual of Style citation formats: Author-Date or Notes and Bibliography. The guidelines for these formats are on the course Blackboard page

## Course Schedule

Many readings will be posted electronically. If you are unable to access a reading, please contact me in adequate time before the class session in which the reading is due. This schedule of readings may be changed with appropriate notice.

Week	Date	Topics and Assignment Deadlines
1	08/29/2019	<b>Course Overview</b>
		<b>Introductions</b>
2	9/03/2019	<b>The Empirical Approach to Political Science</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Scientific Method / How to Ask Questions</b></li> </ul>
	9/05/2019	Janet, Reynold, Mycoff (2016): Political Science Research Methods 8 th Edition. SAGE/CQ Press, Chapter 1, pages 1-14, 22-25, 40-44 and Chapter 2.
3	9/10/2019 - 9/12/2019	Janet, Reynold, Mycoff (2016): Political Science Research Methods 8 th Edition. SAGE/CQ Press <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 3: Beginning The Research Process, identifying a Research Topic, developing questions, and reviewing literature</li> </ul>
4	9/17/2019 -	Janet, Reynold, Mycoff (2016): Political Science Research Methods 8 th Edition. SAGE/CQ Press <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 4: The Building Blocks of Social Science Research- Hypothesis, Concepts and Variables</li> </ul>
	9/19/2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JRM: Chapter 4, pages 121-126 and Chapter 5, pages 128-145.</li> <li>• Martha Finnemore. 1993. International Organizations as Teachers of Norms. <i>International Organization</i> 47: 565-576 <b>ONLY</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Home Work Assignment 1 Due</b></p>
5	9/24/2019 - 9/26/2019	Janet, Reynold, Mycoff (2016): Political Science Research Methods 8 th Edition. SAGE/CQ Press <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 5: The Building Blocks of Social Science Research- Measurement</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JRM: Chapter 6, pages 166-171 and 195-203</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ronald Mitchell. 1994. Regime Design Matters. <i>International Organization</i> 48(3):425-435 <b>ONLY</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Home Work Assignment 2 Due</b></p>
6	10/1/2019 -	Janet, Reynold, Mycoff (2016): Political Science Research Methods 8 th Edition. SAGE/CQ Press Chapter 6. Research Design : Making Casual Inferences
	10/3/2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>David M. Edelstein. 2004. Occupational Hazards: Why Military Occupations Succeed or Fail. <i>International Security</i> 29(1):49-91.</li> <li>Andrew Bennett and Colin Elman. 2007. Case Study Methods in the International Relations Subfield. <i>Comparative Political Studies</i> 40(2):170-195.</li> </ul> <p><b>Home Work Assignment 3 Due</b></p>
7	10/8/2019 -	<b>Sampling</b>
	10/10/2019	Janet, Reynold, Mycoff (2016): Political Science Research Methods 8 th Edition. SAGE/CQ Press <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>JRM: Chapter 7 and Chapter 11, pages 348-368</li> </ul> <p><b>Mid-Term Exam</b></p>
8	10/15/2019 -	Janet, Reynold, Mycoff (2016): Political Science Research Methods 8 th Edition. SAGE/CQ Press <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 8 – Making Empirical Observation</li> </ul>
	10/17/2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Roy Licklider. 1995. The Consequences of Negotiated Settlements in Civil Wars, 1945-1993. <i>American Political Science Review</i> 89(3):681-690.</li> </ul>
9	10/22/2019 -10/24/2019	Janet, Reynold, Mycoff (2016): Political Science Research Methods 8 th Edition. SAGE/CQ Press <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 9: Document Analysis: Using the written Record</li> </ul>
		<b>Home Work Assignment 4 Due</b>
10		<b>Survey Research and Interviewing</b>
	10/29/2019 -10/31/2019	Janet, Reynold, Mycoff (2016): Political Science Research Methods 8 th Edition. SAGE/CQ Press <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 10-Survey Research and Interviewing</li> </ul>
11	11/5/2019 -	<b>Understanding Data</b>
	11/7/2019	Janet, Reynold, Mycoff (2016): Political Science Research Methods 8 th Edition. SAGE/CQ Press



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Chapter 11- Making Sense of Data</li> </ul>
12	11/12/2019 -11/14/2019	<b>Statistical Inference</b> Janet, Reynold, Mycoff (2016): Political Science Research Methods 8 th Edition. SAGE/CQ Press <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•<b>Chapter 12: Statistical Inference</b></li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Wayne Sandholtz and William Koetzle. 2000. Accounting for Corruption: Economic Structure, Democracy, and Trade. <i>International Studies Quarterly</i>. 44(1):31-50.</li> </ul>
13	11/19/2019 -11/21/2019	Janet, Reynold, Mycoff (2016): Political Science Research Methods 8 th Edition. SAGE/CQ Press <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 13: Investigating Relationships Between Two Variables</li> </ul>
14	11/26/2019 -	Janet, Reynold, Mycoff (2016): Political Science Research Methods 8 th Edition. SAGE/CQ Press <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 13: Investigating Relationships Between Two Variables</li> </ul> <b>Homework Assignment 5 Due</b>
	11/28/2019	<b>Thanks Giving Recess- No Class</b>
15	12/3/2019 -	<b>Multivariate Analysis/ Class Summary</b> Janet, Reynold, Mycoff (2016): Political Science Research Methods 8 th Edition. SAGE/CQ Press <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 14: Multivariate Analysis</li> </ul>
	12/5/2018	
16	12/10/2019 -12/12/2019	<b>Class Summary</b> <b>Homework Assignment 6</b>

		<b>Research Design Paper Due December 17, 2019</b>
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