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Diplomacy Syllabi

School of Diplomacy and International  
Relations

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Spring 2019

## **Investigating International Relations**

Binneh S. Minteh PhD

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**DIPL 3800AA- Spring 2018 2019**  
**Investigating International Relations**

**Tuesday and Thursday 12:30PM – 1:45PM**

**Instructor Name. Dr. Binneh s Minteh      Phone: (862) 235-7055**  
**Office:      Email:binneh.minteh@shu.edu**  
**Office Hours: Friday 11:00am -12:30pm      Classroom: Stafford 09**

**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**

Philip H. Pollock III, *The Essentials of Political Analysis* (CQ Press, 5th edition, 2016).

**Recommended resources for additional exploration**

*The Essentials of Political Analysis* student companion website:

<http://edge.sagepub.com/pollock>

## Requirements and Grading

### Grading: 500 points

| Course Components               | Possible Points |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Attendance/ Participation (10%) | 50              |
| Homework Assignments (40%)      | 200             |
| Mid-Term Exam (20%)             | 100             |
| Research Design Paper (30%)     | 150             |
|                                 |                 |

| 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
- Variable Operationalization
- Review of Literature
- Sampling and Inference
- Testing hypothesis – Tests and Crosstabs
- Regression Analysis

### Homework #1: Problem Statement and Hypothesis (30 Points)

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 (30 Points)

### **Homework #3: Variable Operationalization (30 Points)**

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 eight sources.

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

### **Homework # 5: Testing Hypothesis – Tests and Cross Tabs (40 Points)**

### **Homework #6: Regression Analysis (40 Points)**

### **Mid-Term Exam -**

The Mid-examination will be taken on **March 7, 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 10page minimum (double-spaced with 1" margins and 12 point fonts) research design. This paper is due electronically at 12 noon EST on..... 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**

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Civil Rights Restoration Act, students at Seton Hall University with 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.

## **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>>

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](mailto:DSS@shu.edu).

### Course schedule

| SESSION &<br>DATE      | PREPARATION:   | TOPICS:   |
|------------------------|--|---|
| Week 1<br>Jan 15/17    | Buy textbook(s) / Read Introduction                  | --<br><b>Introduction to Course/Introduction Chapter in book</b>          |
| Week 2<br>Jan 22/24    | Read Chapter 1                                       | <b>The Definition and Measurement of Concepts</b>                         |
| Week 3<br>Jan 29/31    | Read Chapter 2                                       | <b>Measuring and Describing Variables</b>                                 |
| Week 4<br>Feb 5/7      | Read Chapter 3                                       | <b>Proposing Explanations, Framing Hypotheses, and Making Comparisons</b> |
| Week 5<br>Feb 12/14    | Read Chapter 3 (cont.)<br>Homework Assignment #1 Due | <b>Proposing Explanations, Framing Hypotheses, and Making Comparisons</b> |
| Week 6<br>Feb 19/21    | Read Chapter 4<br>Homework Assignment # 2 Due        | <b>Research Design and the Logic of Control</b>                           |
| Week 7<br>Feb 26/28    | Read Chapter 5<br>A                                  | <b>Making Controlled Comparisons</b>                                      |
| Week 8<br>March 5/7    | Study Chapters 1-5<br>Homework Assignment #3 Due     | <b>*MIDTERM EXAM*</b>   |
| Week 9                 | March 11 – March 16                                  | <b>Spring Recess</b>  |
| Week 10<br>March 19/21 | Read Chapter 6                                       | <b>Foundations of Statistical Inference</b>                               |
| Week 11                | Read Chapter 7                                       |   |

|                                 |              |  |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--|
| March 26/28                     |              | Homework Assignment #4   |
|                                 | TOPICS:      | <b>Tests of Significance and Measures of Association</b>                                       |
| Week 12<br>April 2/4            | PREPARATION: | Read Chapter 8   |
|                                 | TOPICS:      | <b>Correlation and Linear Regression</b>   |
| Week 13<br>April 9/11           | PREPARATION: | Read Chapter 8 (cont.)<br>Homework Assignment #5 Due   |
|                                 | TOPICS:      | <b>Correlation and Linear Regression</b>   |
| Week 14<br>April 16<br>April 18 | PREPARATION: | Read Chapter 9<br>:  |
|                                 | TOPICS:      | <b>Logistic Regression</b><br><b>April 18 – April 19 , Holy Thursday- Good Friday No Class</b> |
| Week 15<br>April 23/25          | PREPARATION: | Read Chapter 10  |
|                                 | TOPICS:      | <b>Thinking Empirically, Thinking Probabilistically</b>  |
| Week 16<br>April 30<br>May 7    | PREPARATION: | Study Chapters 6-10<br>Homework Assignment #6 Due  |
|                                 | TOPICS:      | <b>Reading Day*</b>  |

**Research Design Paper Due Date: TBA**