

RESEARCH METHODS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

DEGREE: BACHELOR IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

DEGREE COURSE YEAR: FIRST SECOND THIRD FOURTH

1^º SEMESTER 2^º SEMESTER

CATEGORY: BASIC COMPULSORY OPTIONAL

NO. OF CREDITS (ECTS): 6 3

NO. OF SESSIONS: 30

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH SPANISH

TUTORIALS:

FORMAT: LECTURE & SEMINAR

PREREQUISITES:

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will introduce students to epistemological questions about social science as a vocation as well as the nuts and bolts of doing actual social science research. The emphasis will be on breadth: exposing students to the wide array of tools that political scientists use, allowing them to appreciate the diversity of methodological approaches, while acknowledging divisions and debates about the future of the discipline. By the end of the course students should feel more confident about discussing scholarly articles and embarking on their own research projects.

Course objectives

- i) Help students become sophisticated consumers of academic literature, capable of understanding and evaluating published pieces of research
- ii) Make students familiar with basic methods commonly used in the social sciences
- iii) Help students apply these methods to their own research projects

2. COURSE CONTENT

SESSION 1: COURSE INTRODUCTION

SESSION 2: METHODOLOGY WARS

SESSIONS 3-4: THEORIES, SOCIAL SCIENCE AND PSEUDOSCIENCE

SESSIONS 5: ON MEASUREMENT

SESSION 6: RESEARCH DESIGN AND ETHICS

SESSION 7: EXPERIMENTS AND QUASI-EXPERIMENTS

SESSION 8: SURVEYS

SESSIONS 9: INTERVIEWS AND FOCUS GROUPS

SESSION 10: FIELDWORK AND ETHNOGRAPHY

SESSION 11: CASE STUDIES AND THE COMPARATIVE METHOD

SESSION 12: ARCHIVAL RESEARCH

SESSIONS 13: DISCOURSE AND TEXTUAL ANALYSIS

SESSION 15: MIDTERM EXAMINATION

SESSION 16:

Using the library, citing sources and writing literature reviews

SESSION 17: GAME THEORY

SESSION 18: NETWORK ANALYSIS

SESSIONS 19-20: PROBABILITY THEORY AND STATISTICS

SESSIONS 21-22: STATISTICAL INFERENCE

SESSIONS 23-24: BIVARIATE ANALYSIS

SESSIONS 25-26: MULTIVARIATE ANALYSIS

SESSION 27: ADVANCED TOPICS IN STATISTICS

SESSION 28: MIXED METHODS APPROACHES

SESSIONS 29-30: FINAL EXAMINATION

3. EVALUATION SYSTEM

3.1 General Observations

Students are expected to complete all readings assigned each week (except the first week) prior to coming to class in order to participate in a fruitful discussion. Extensions will be granted only for extraordinary circumstances by notifying the instructor well in advance. Otherwise, late homework will be penalized by a full letter grade for every day past the due date.

3.2 Weighing Criteria

The final grade for the course will be calculated according to the following components:

Class Participation	20%
Midterm Exam	20%
Problem sets	20% (10% each)
Research Proposal	20%
Final Exam	20%

The two problems sets will involve quantitative reasoning and will be distributed in the second half of the course. The final paper (8-10 double-spaced pages) will consist of a research proposal on a topic of each student's choice and will be due on the last session.

3.3 Examination Policy

- a) Students have up to 4 examination sessions per course over two consecutive academic years.
- b) IE University has a mandatory Class Attendance Policy that calls for students to attend a minimum of 70% of class sessions in a course. An absence, for any reason, counts towards the maximum of 30% allowed absences. Failure to comply with any of these requirements will result in students being ineligible to sit for the exam in both the 1st and 2nd examination sessions. These students will be required to sit for the exam in the 3rd session.
- c) Grading for make-up exams will be subject to the following rules:
 - i) Students who failed the course in the first round of exams will be eligible to re-sit in the 2nd examination session. *Warning:* students who do not comply with the attendance policy requirements will be required to sit for the exam in the 3rd examination session.
 - ii) The highest grade that a student may earn in the 2nd examination session is 8.

3.4 Extraordinary Examination

In the event that you do not satisfy the requirements to pass the class, you will have the option to take an extraordinary supplemental exam. This exam may be complemented and/or replaced by additional supplemental assignments as part of your overall evaluation. Dispensation for the inclusion of additional evaluation criteria in the event of an unsatisfactory grade will be made solely at the discretion of your professor. In accordance with university policy, extraordinary exams must without exception be taken in Segovia during the extraordinary exam period.

4. USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN CLASS

This subject requires the use of electronic devices in class to access statistical software. The use of laptops is permitted in the classroom only for purposes related to the course. All phones must be turned off and put aside during class. There will be serious repercussions for those students who disregard this policy.