

Research Methods

Fall 2020

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Office Hours: Tuesday, 13:30-14:30

Course schedule:

Tuesday 14:40-15:30

Thursday 12:40-14:30

Zoom Meeting ID: 974 6217 6164

Course Description and Objectives:

The goal of this course is to introduce you the process of conducting research in social sciences and give you some ideas on how you can evaluate research results. As you have seen in many other previous courses, social science is not just about collecting and providing information on human behavior across space and time. In this course we will discuss what else it might entail. We are going to see that there are different approaches that have different views on this question and also on questions such as how you collect information, what kind of information you collect and how you analyze the collected information.

We will start the course with a discussion on what research is, why we carry out research and how we plan it. Then, we will talk about how theory guides our research. We will continue with two critical issues that a social scientist faces in her research: measurement and sampling. Then a large section of the course deals with various methods used in social science research: case study, ethnographic field work, experiment, survey, and statistical analysis of aggregate data. We will conclude with a discussion of how a research report is written.

Student Responsibilities:

(1) Required Reading and Participation.

You are expected to complete the assigned readings before class. The class will require your active participation. The part of your grade based on class participation will be determined by (1) attendance, (2) random and unannounced quizzes and (3) participation.

(2) Group works

There will be in total 10 group works that you will need to complete in class. You will be assigned to a new group for each exercise.

(3) Research Paper Proposal

You will need to choose a research topic and specify a clearly stated research question that can be analyzed with at least one method that is discussed in this course. After reviewing the previous literature on this topic, you will first introduce a theoretical approach and a hypothesis

or tentative explanation for your question. Then, you will need to provide a detailed outline of how the selected method can be used to answer the question that you have framed. You will need to clearly discuss the measurement and sampling issues. You need to give me a brief outline on **November 19**. This outline has to include your topic, question, theoretical approach and the method. You need to conduct the literature review before you submit me the outline in order to write an outline that makes sense. I do not need to see the literature review in the outline, but you have to provide the list of references that you have used in your review.

You will also need to present your proposal. The presentation will be brief (12 minutes), but it needs to provide all the detailed information that will go into the written proposal.

Presentation Dates: December 29 - January 7

Due date: January 14

Grades

Your course grade will be based on group works (30%), proposal (written text 20%, presentation 15%, outline 5%), participation (including quizzes) (20%), and attendance (10%).

Grading Scale:

| | | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|-------|
| A 93-100 | B+ 87-89 | C+ 77-79 | D+ 63-69 | F <50 |
| A- 90-92 | B 83-86 | C 73-76 | D 50-62 | |
| | B- 80-82 | C- 70-72 | | |

Textbooks:

Neuman, Lawrence W. *Understanding Research*. Pearson.

The book above can be found at the university bookstore and also course reserves.

Homer web page: <https://www.homerbooks.com/urun/understanding-research>

You are also assigned additional articles and book chapters as outlined in the next section. You can find them on SUcourse.

Online Teaching:

We will hold synchronous meetings over Zoom. If you experience any difficulties with the internet connection, please contact me immediately.

Reading Assignments

INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH

(1) Introduction

Neuman, Chapter 1, pages 3-14

(2) Types of research and planning a study

Neuman, Chapter 1, pages 14-25, Chapters 2 and 3

Geddes, Barbara, 1991, "A Game Theoretic Model of Reform in Latin American Democracies", *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 85, No. 2, pp. 371-392.

Research Proposal Example (available on SUCourse, resources)

Theory building

(3) Theory and hypothesis

Kellstedt, Paul M. and Guy D. Whitten. 2009. *The Fundamentals of Political Science Research*. Cambridge University Press. Chapter 2.

(4) Example: Formal Modeling

Fiorina, Morris P. 1975. "Formal Models in Political Science." *American Journal of Political Science*. 19(1): 133-59.

Measurement

(5) Conceptualization

Neuman, Chapter 5, pages 122-132

(6) Operationalization and examples

Neuman, Chapter 5, pages 132-151

Munck, Gerardo L. And Jay Verkuilen. 2002. "Conceptualizing and Measuring Democracy, Evaluating Alternative Indices," *Comparative Political Studies*, 35 (1)

Sampling

(7) November 12 Nonrandom sampling

Neuman, Chapter 4, pages 94-100

Geddes, Barbara. 1990. "How The Cases You Choose Affect The Answers You Get: Selection Bias in Comparative Politics." *Political Analysis*. 2(1): 131-50.

(8) November 12 Random sampling

Neuman, Chapter 4, pages 100-119

SURVEY OF VARIOUS METHODOLOGIES

(9) November 17 Case study and ethnographic research

Neuman, Chapters 10 and 11

(10) November 19 Examples (**Proposal outline due!**)

Marx, Anthony W. 1996. "Race-Making and the Nation-State" *World Politics*, 48.2, 180-208.

Auyero, Javier. 2000. "The Logic of Clientelism in Argentina: An Ethnographic Account", *Latin American Research Review*, Vol. 35, No. 3, pp. 55-81.

Levitsky, Steven. 2003. *Transforming Labor-Based Parties in Latin America: Argentine Peronism in Comparative Perspective*. Cambridge University Press. Chapter 1.

(11) November 24 Experiments

Neuman, Chapter 7.

Vicente, Pedro C. and Leonard Wantchekon. 2009. "Clientelism and vote buying: lessons from field experiments in African elections" *Oxford Review of Economic Policy*, Volume 25, Issue 2, 1 July 2009, Pages 292–305

(12) November 26 Survey

Neuman, Chapter 6.

Aytaç, S.E. & Çarkoğlu, A. 2018. "Presidents Shaping Public Opinion in Parliamentary Democracies: A Survey Experiment in Turkey" *Political Behavior* (2018) 40: 371.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11109-017-9404-x>

(13) December 1 Statistical analysis of aggregate data

Neuman, Chapter 8.

Kemahlioglu, Ozge. 2009. "Particularistic Distribution of Investment Subsidies under Coalition Governments: The Case of Turkey" *Comparative Politics*. Vol. 40, Number 2.

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

(14) December 3 Descriptive statistics

Johnson, Janet Buttolph and H.T. Reynolds. 2008. *Political Science Research Methods*. CQ Press. Chapter 11, pp. 351-393.

(15) December 8 Hypothesis testing

Johnson and Reynolds, Chapter 11, pp.393-414.

(16) December 10 Hypothesis testing, continued

Johnson and Reynolds, Chapter 11, pp. 414-425.

(17) December 15 Bivariate analysis

Johnson and Reynolds, Chapter 12, pp.426-439.

(18) December 17 Bivariate analysis, continued

Johnson and Reynolds, Chapter 12, pp.439-477.

(19) December 22 Regression analysis

Johnson and Reynolds, Chapter 12, pp.477-502.

(20) December 24 Multivariate analysis

Johnson and Reynolds, Chapter 13, pp.503-549.

(21) December 29 Proposal Presentations

(22) December 31 Proposal Presentations

(23) January 5 Proposal Presentations

(24) January 7 Proposal Presentations