

Middle East Technical University
Department of Political Science and Public Administration

**ADM 5302 - RESEARCH METHODS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE
Fall 2018**

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Office Hours: Tue 12:30-13:30

COURSE CONTENT

The aim of this course is to provide the graduate students with a basic foundation for undertaking advanced research in the social sciences. We will start with a general discussion on the process of formulating research questions, research design and the importance of literature review, then analyze questions of conceptualization and measurement, proceeding to problems of representativeness and how to select cases for analysis (sampling). The seminar will continue with examining various methods and tools of data collection and analysis used in qualitative and quantitative research including surveys and questionnaires, experimental methods, interviews, field work, content and discourse analyses, case studies and small-n research as well as some basic techniques of statistical data analysis.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

You are expected to complete the following assignments:

Mini response: Starting from Week 4, every student will rummage up a **scholarly** article (through peer reviewed journals or books) from her/his area of interest. This should be an article that is somehow (methodology-wise, that is) related to the previous week's topic of discussion in class. Students will write a **critical** review of that article (about 1 page, single spaced, using **own** sentences) and post it on Turnitin. So, for our class in Week 4, every student will find a **scholarly** article and make a critical assessment of it in light of our discussions on "Literature Review" in Week 3. (A total of 10 responses, 40%)

Literature Review and Research Question: Throughout the semester, students will be working on a research topic that can be empirically investigated. They will do a literature review on that topic and prepare an 8 to 10-page report (double spaced, using a 12-point font) on the theoretical, methodological and/or empirical aspects of particular studies related to their topic of interest. At the end of this report, they will formulate a research question in light of their literature review (50%)

Attendance/ Participation: Students should be prepared to discuss about the readings (including their own article) in class (10%)

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

A copy of the required readings (see the course schedule below) will be made available to students at least a week before we study them in class.

COURSE POLICIES

Assignments/Exams: Due dates are final (unless you have a documented family or medical emergency).

Academic Integrity: All assignments must be the original work of a student and not used for any other course.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1: Research Ethics

Kitchener, Karen S. (2009). "Social Science Research Ethics: Historical and Philosophical Issues" in *The Handbook of Social Research Ethics* (ed. Donna M. Mertens). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Week 2: Formulating Research Questions

Barakso, Maryann et al. (2014). "The Research Question" in *Understanding Political Science Research Methods*. New York: Routledge.

Suggested Reading(s)

Nørgaard, Asbjørn S. (2008). "Political Science: Witchcraft or Craftsmanship? Standards for Good Research" in *World Political Science Review*, 4(1), 1-28.

Black, Thomas R. (2002). "Questions and Hypotheses" in *Understanding Social Science Research*. Thousand Oaks: Sage.

White, Patrick. (2009). Chapters 1 thru 3 in *Developing Research Questions: A Guide for Social Scientists*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.

Brown, A. (2010). "Research questions: What's worth asking and why" in *The Routledge Doctoral Student's Companion* (Pat Thomson and Malenie Walker, eds). New York: Routledge.

Week 3: Research Design and Literature Review

Starke, Peter. (2006). "The Politics of Welfare State Retrenchment: A Literature Review" in *Social Policy & Administration*, 40(1), 104-120.

Suggested Reading(s)

Bell, Judith. (2005). "Literature searching" in *Doing Your Research Project*. New York: Open University Press.

Ruane, Janet M. (2005). "Designing Ideas: Research Strategies" in *Essentials of Research Methods*. Malden: Blackwell Publishing.

Week 4 : Concepts and Measurement

Greene, Steven. (2002). "The Social-Psychological Measurement of Partisanship" in *Political Behavior*, 24(3), 171-197.

Suggested Reading(s)

White, Patrick. (2009). "Questions, methods and indicators" in *Developing Research Questions: A Guide for Social Scientists*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.

Babbie, Earl. (2007). "Conceptualization, Operationalization, and Measurement" in *The Practice of Social Research*. Belmont: Thomson Wadsworth.

Neuman, W. Lawrence. (2007). "Qualitative and Quantitative Measurement" in *Basics of Social Research*. Boston: Pearson Education.

Week 5: Sampling

El Mellouki, Sanae. (2015). "The Infusion of Islam into Pluralistic Politics: The Need to Explore the Islamist Identity Beyond Ideological Boundaries – The Case of the Moroccan Party of Justice and Development" in *Discourse & Society*, 26(6), 662-681.

Suggested Reading(s)

Black, Thomas R. (2002). "Research Designs and Representativeness" in *Understanding Social Science Research*. Thousand Oaks: Sage.

Babbie, Earl. (2008). "The Logic of Sampling" in *The Basics of Social Research*. Belmont: Thomson Wadsworth

Week 6: Questionnaires

Verhulst, Joris et al. (2009). "The First Time is the Hardest? A Cross-National and Cross-Issue Comparison of First-Time Protest Participants" in *Political Behavior*, 31(3), 455-484.

Suggested Reading(s)

Hutchinson, Susan R. (2004). "Survey Research" in *Foundations for Research* (Kathleen deMarrais and Stephen D. Lapan, eds.). London: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

Bell, Judith. (2005). "Designing and administering questionnaires" in *Doing Your Research Project*. New York: Open University Press.

Bechhofer, Frank and Lindsay Paterson. (2000). "Structured questionnaires" in *Principles of Research Design in the Social Sciences*. New York: Routledge

Week 7: Interviews

Van De Mierop, Dorien. (2011). "Identity Negotiations in Narrative Accounts About Poverty" in *Discourse & Society*, 22(5), 565-591.

Suggested Reading(s)

Kleiber, Pamela B. (2004). "Focus Groups: More Than a Method of Qualitative Inquiry" in *Foundations for Research* (Kathleen deMarrais and Stephen D. Lapan, eds.). London: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

Bell, Judith. (2005). "Planning and conducting interviews" in *Doing Your Research Project*. New York: Open University Press.

Bechhofer, Frank and Lindsay Paterson. (2000). "To interview or not to interview" in *Principles of Research Design in the Social Sciences*. New York: Routledge

Weiss, Robert S. (1994). "Introduction" and "Interviewing" in *Learning from Strangers: The Art and Method of Qualitative Interview Studies*. New York: Free Press.

Atkinson, Paul and Martyn Hammersley. (2003). "Oral Accounts and the Role of Interviewing" in *Ethnography: Principles in Practice*. New York: Routledge.

Guest, Greg, Arwen Bunce and Laura Johnson. (2006). "How Many Interviews Are Enough?: An Experiment with Data Saturation and Variability." *Field Methods*, Vol. 18, No. 1, 59-82.

Week 8: Field Study

Codó, Eva. (2011). "Regimenting Discourse, Controlling Bodies: Disinformation. Evaluation and Moral Categorization in a State Bureaucratic Agency" in *Discourse & Society*, 22(6), 723-742.

Suggested Reading(s)

Bechhofer, Frank and Lindsay Paterson. (2000). "Fieldwork" in *Principles of Research Design in the Social Sciences*. New York: Routledge

Ruane, Janet M. (2005). "Watch and Learn: Field Research" in *Essentials of Research Methods*. Malden: Blackwell Publishing.

Berg, Bruce L. (2001). "Ethnographic Field Strategies" and "Unobtrusive Measures in Research" in *Qualitative Research Methods for the Social Sciences*. Boston: Allyn & Bacon.

Emerson, Robert M., Rachel I. Fretz and Linda L. Shaw. (1995). "Processing Fieldnotes: Coding and Memoing" in *Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Week 9: Experimental Research

Kam, Cindy D. et al. (2007). "Beyond the 'Narrow Data Base': Another Convenience Sample for Experimental Research" in *Political Behavior*, 29(4), 415-440.

Suggested Reading(s)

Babbie, Earl. (2007). "Experiments" in *The Practice of Social Research*. Belmont: Thomson Wadsworth.

Week 10: Causality and Causal Inference

Eveland Jr, William P. et al. (2005). "Understanding the Relationship Between Communication and Political Knowledge: A Model Comparison Approach Using Panel Data" in *Political Communication*, 22(4), 423-446.

Suggested Reading(s)

Shively, W. Phillips. (2009). "Causal Thinking and Design of Research" in *The Craft of Political Research*. Upper Saddle River: Prentice Hall.

King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, Sidney Verba. (1994). "Causality and Causal Inference" in *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Week 11: Case Studies

Pratt, Andy C. (2009). "Urban Regeneration: From the Arts 'Feel Good' Factor to the Cultural Economy: A Case Study of Hoxton, London" in *Urban Studies*, 46(5&6), 1041-1061.

Suggested Reading(s)

Bechhofer, Frank and Lindsay Paterson. (2000). "The choice of locale and group" in *Principles of Research Design in the Social Sciences*. New York: Routledge

Gerring, John. (2004). "What Is a Case Study and What Is It Good For?" *The American Political Science Review*. Vol. 98. No. 2, pp. 341-354.

Van Evera, Stephen. (1997). "What Are Case Studies? How Should They Be Performed?" in *Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

Van Wynsberghe, Rob and Samia Khan. (2007). "Redefining Case Study." *International Journal of Qualitative Methods*. Vol. 6, No. 2, pp. 80-94.

Lieberson, Stanley. (1991). "Small N's and Big Conclusions: An Examination of the Reasoning in Comparative Studies Based on a Small Number of Cases." *Social Forces*. Vol. 70, No. 2, pp. 307-320.

Week 12: Content Analysis

Jerit, Jennifer. (2008). "Issue Framing and Engagement: Rhetorical Strategy in Public Policy Debates" in *Political Behavior*, 30(1), 1-24.

Suggested Reading(s)

Neuendorf, Kimberly A. (2002). "Defining Content Analysis," "Beyond Description: An Integrative Model of Content Analysis," "Message Units and Sampling" and "Variables and Predictions" in *The Content Analysis Guidebook*. Thousand Oaks: Sage.

Weber, Robert P. (1990). *Basic Content Analysis*. Newbury Park: Sage

Hsieh, Hsiu-Fang and Sarah E. Shannon. (2005). "Three Approaches to Qualitative Content Analysis." *Qualitative Health Research*. Vol. 15, No. 9, pp. 1277-1288.

Week 13: Discourse Analysis

Çağatay Tekin, Beyza. (2008). "The Construction of Turkey's Possible EU Membership in French Political Discourse" in *Discourse & Society*, 19(6), 727-763.

Suggested Reading(s)

Fairclough, Norman. (2001). "Critical Discourse Analysis as a Method in Social Scientific Research" in *Methods of Critical Discourse Analysis*. Thousand Oaks: Sage.

Gillen, Julia and Alan Petersen. (2005). "Discourse Analysis" in *Research Methods in the Social Sciences* (Bridget Somekh and Cathy Lewin, eds.). London: Sage.

Herrera, Yoshiko M. and Bear F. Braumoeller. (2004). Symposium: Discourse and Content Analysis. *Qualitative Methods*, Vol. 2, No. 1, pp. 15-40.

Reisigl, Martin. (2008). "Analyzing Political Rhetoric" in *Qualitative Discourse Analysis in the Social Sciences* (eds. Ruth Wodak and Michal Krzyżanowski). New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Week 14: Review