ADM 5302 - RESEARCH METHODS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE
Fall 2018

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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


Week 2: Formulating Research Questions


Suggested Reading(s)


Week 3: Research Design and Literature Review


Suggested Reading(s)


Week 4 : Concepts and Measurement


Suggested Reading(s)


Week 5: Sampling


Suggested Reading(s)


**Week 6: Questionnaires**


*Suggested Reading(s)*


**Week 7: Interviews**


*Suggested Reading(s)*


Week 8: Field Study


Suggested Reading(s)


Week 9: Experimental Research


Suggested Reading(s)


Week 10: Causality and Causal Inference


Suggested Reading(s)


Week 11: Case Studies


Suggested Reading(s)


Week 12: Content Analysis


Suggested Reading(s)


**Week 13: Discourse Analysis**


*Suggested Reading(s)*


**Week 14: Review**