**DEPARTMENT NAME:** POLITICAL SCIENCE

**COLLEGE OF:** ARTS AND LETTERS

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### RECOMMENDED COURSE IDENTIFICATION:

**PREFIX** __POS_____ **COURSE NUMBER** 6736 **LAB CODE** (L or C) _____

*(TO OBTAIN A COURSE NUMBER, CONTACT MJENNING@FAU.EDU)*

**COMPLETE COURSE TITLE:** RESEARCH DESIGN IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

**EFFECTIVE DATE**

(first term course will be offered)

FALL 2011

**CREDITS:** 3

**TEXTBOOK INFORMATION:** Pollack, Philips H. Shrinkwrapped Pkg.
The Essentials of Political Analysis, 3rd Edition + An SPSS Companion to Political Analysis, 3rd Edition + SPSS Student Version Software
Publisher: CQ PRESS

### GRADING (SELECT ONLY ONE GRADING OPTION):

**REGULAR** X **PASS/FAIL** **SATISFACTORY/UNSATISFACTORY**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION, NO MORE THAN 3 LINES:** The goal of the course is to familiarize students with the appropriate techniques and methods of research, inference, and statistics in political science.

**PREREQUISITES:**

**COREQUISITES:**

**OTHER REGISTRATION CONTROLS (MAJOR, COLLEGE, LEVEL):**

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS NEEDED TO TEACH THIS COURSE:** PH.D. IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

Other departments, colleges that might be affected by the new course must be consulted. List entities that have been consulted and attach written comments from each.

**SOCIOLGY**

_______Mehmet Gurses, gurses@fau.edu, 561 297 3213

Faculty Contact, Email, Complete Phone Number

**SIGNATURES**

**Approved by:**

Department Chair: ____________________________

College Curriculum Chair: ____________________________

College Dean: ____________________________

UGPC Chair: ____________________________

Dean of the Graduate College: ____________________________

**Date:**

**SUPPORTING MATERIALS**

**Syllabus**—must include all details as shown in the UGPC Guidelines.

**Written Consent**—required from all departments affected.

Go to: [http://graduate.fau.edu/gpc/](http://graduate.fau.edu/gpc/) to download this form and guidelines to fill out the form.

Email this form and syllabus to diamond@fau.edu and eqirjo@fau.edu one week before the University Graduate Programs Committee meeting so that materials may be viewed on the UGPC website by committee members prior to the meeting.

**FAUnewcrseGrad—Revised May 2010**
Course Objectives

- The goal of the course is to familiarize students with the appropriate techniques and methods of research, inference, and statistics in political science.

- In this class students will become familiar with a computer program (SPSS). Students should gain an understanding of how the statistical and methodological programs can be used to analyze and study political phenomena.

- An understanding of the appropriate techniques and methods of research will prepare students to interpret and understand political science publications. Students will also be able to conduct research projects in their graduate seminars.

Required Texts/Materials

1- Pollack, Philips H. Shrinkwrapped Pkg. The Essentials of Political Analysis, 3rd Edition + An SPSS Companion to Political Analysis, 3rd Edition + SPSS Student Version Software Publisher: CQ PRESS

Requirements & Evaluation

The course is divided into two major sections. In the first half of the semester we will cover the fundamentals of social science research. Readings are assigned by topic and date as shown below.

Following the completion of the first section, each student is required to turn in two-short research papers/designs and one term-paper. Further details will be distributed at a later date.

In each written assignment you are expected to state: (1) research question; (2) theoretical framework; (3) derive concise and clear hypotheses; and (4) test the hypotheses against a data set using computer analysis. Further instructions about the written assignments will be provided at a later date.

Participation: Students are expected to arrive for each class prepared to discuss the assigned reading material. You are expected to be attentive to class lectures, participate in class discussions and exercises, respect the views and work of classmates, and refrain from all
disruptive behavior (including the use of cellular telephones and laptop computers for anything other than class notes). Lectures and other class materials are designed to clarify and expand on class readings, expecting you have read and developed a general understanding of the topics addressed in the readings. You will be rewarded for your constructive contribution to the discussion. Simply arriving for class to enjoy a nap in the back of the room does not constitute adequate participation in the class! Given the intense nature of this class failing to attend will have serious consequences for your grade. Past experience shows that failing to attend will lower your grade by at least one letter. Participation is worth 10% of your total grade and will be based on informed discussion in seminar.

**Grading Policy:** The student's final course grade is broken down as follows: two short research design (each 20%); term-paper (50%); and Participation 10%.

**Grading Scale:** A 93-100; A- 90-92; B+ 87-89; B 83-86; B- 80-82; C+ 77-79; C 73-76; C- 70-72; D+ 67-69; D 63-66; D- 60-62; F 0-59.

**The Florida Atlantic University Honor Code:** Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because interferes with the University mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the University community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information see [http://www.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/4.001_Honor_Code.pdf](http://www.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/4.001_Honor_Code.pdf)

**Students with Disabilities:** In compliance with Disabilities Act (ADA), students who require special accommodations must register with the Office of Students with Disabilities (OSD) located in Boca Raton – SU 133 (561-297-3880) and follow the procedures.

**Lecture Topics & Readings**

The dates listed for each topic are approximate and will depend on how quickly we move through the material. You absolutely need to study the assigned readings before the date listed as I will be covering the material on the date given below. *Note that this is not a contract. It is subject to change at my discretion.*

**Week 1 (August 24): Introduction**
Thinking and Studying Scientifically
Puzzles, theory, and hypotheses; variables and constants
Read: Chp 2

**Week 2 (August 31): Measurement**
Read: Chp1

**Week 3 (Sep 7): Research Design**
Read: Chp2
Week 4 (Sep 14): Cont’d.

Week 5 (Sep 21): Sampling and Inference
Read: chp5

Week 6 (Sep 28): Correlation and Linear Regression
Read: Chp7

Week 7 (Oct 5): Wrap-up

Week 8 (Oct 12): Introduction to SPSS

Week 9 (Oct 19): Data Collection & Analysis Using SPSS

Week 10 (Oct 26): Presenting the Results

Week 11 (Nov 2): Term-Paper/Presentations

Week 12 (Nov 9): Cont’d.

Week 13 (Nov 16): Cont’d.

Week 14 (Nov 23): Cont’d.

Week 15 (Nov 30): April 18-20): Cont’d.

Week 16 (Dec 7): TERM-PAPER DUE
Proper Citations and Plagiarism: For all scholarly projects, I encourage you to discuss your work with your colleagues, but it is each individual’s personal obligation to make sure the paper is written in accordance with generally-recognized editorial and documentation principles. As such, you are to cite anyone else’s ideas using standard American Political Science Association (APSA) style. (read Course rules # 1 again).

Cite all works in the following manner:

For an article:

For a book:

For television or radio:
WPTV News, 6:30-7:00 p.m., 10/25/05.
Morning Edition, NPR, 6:30-7:00 a.m., 10/25/05.

For newspaper:

For a personal interview:

For a webpage (with no date of authorship):
Recommended/Bibliography


Allison, Graham T. Essence of Decision: Explaining the Cuban Missile Crisis (Boston: Little Brown, 1971), pp. 1-9; 245-263.


George, Alexander L., and Andrew Bennett, “Process-Tracing and Historical Explanation,” Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press,


Lakatos, Imre. "Falsification and the Methodology of Scientific Research Programmes," in Imre


Skocpol, Theda. States and Social Revolutions (Cambrige, England: Cambridge University Press, 1979), pp. 3-43, 284-293.


Dear Tim,
Sociology has no objection to the proposed research methods design class by the political science department.
Best,
Farshad

On 1/25/11 9:30 AM, Timothy Lenz wrote:
> Dear Farshad,
> The Department of Political Science has redesigned its MA program to create a required research design seminar. I have attached a copy of the proposal. Please let me know if you have any concerns or objections. P.S.: our end of the SO building is much less lively these days.
>
> From: Mehmet Gurses [mailto:gurses@fau.edu]
> On 1/24/11 3:16 PM, Timothy Lenz wrote:
> Tim,
> Attached please find the syllabus and the form for the research design course that I will be offering in Fall 2011. Would you please forward it to Sociology to see if they have any objections to it?
> Thank you,
> Mehmet
> Mehmet Gurses
> Assistant Professor
> Department of Political Science
> Florida Atlantic University
> 777 Glades Road, Social Science 384
> Boca Raton, FL 33431-0991
> Phone: (561) 297-3213
> Fax: (561) 297-2997
> email: gurses@fau.edu