

**PATTERSON SCHOOL OF DIPLOMACY AND INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE**

**RESEARCH METHODS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (DIP 777-002)**

**(cross-listed with HOG-777-002 – Defense Against the Dark Arts)**

**FALL 2018**

Dr. Michael Stanaitis  
1101 Patterson Office Tower  
Email: stanaitis@uky.edu  
Phone: (859) 257-6928

Meeting Times: Wed 2:00-4:30  
Location: Patterson Office Tower 420  
Office Hours: Wed 4:30-6:00

**Description:** This course provides students with an introduction to research design and research methodology, with a particular focus on quantitative techniques for data collection and analysis in international relations research. More specifically, this course will teach students how to design and execute independent, original, and quantitatively oriented research on topics relevant to the study and practice of international relations. To this end, students will learn how to 1) devise a methodologically sound research design, 2) find and critically evaluate the quality of existing data on their topic/s of interest, 3) test hypotheses about relationships between two or more variables using both bivariate and multivariate statistics, and 4) interpret, report and visualize statistical results. In addition, this course will provide students with a robust working knowledge of SPSS, one of the most widely used software packages in the social sciences. Perhaps most importantly, this course aims to enable and motivate students to apply the logic of statistical analysis (including concepts like sampling, probability, controlled comparison, and significance) beyond the classroom and to become informed consumers of the quantitatively oriented analyses that they will encounter in both their personal and professional lives.

**Course Objectives:**

This course will:

- Improve your understanding of the key concepts involved in statistical analysis, including the logic of sampling and probability as well as measures of association and tests of significance.
- Explore a range of tools and techniques used in quantitative research.
- Help you gain an appreciation for the strengths and limitations of statistical research methods and quantitative analysis.
- Encourage you to become reflective, critical consumers of international relations research, especially quantitative research.
- Provide opportunities to research an international affairs topic of your choice through the completion of an independent research project.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

- Interpret findings from qualitative and quantitative research papers in International Relations.
- Explain the principles of the theory behind appropriate quantitative and qualitative research methods.
- Critique data sources and data analysis in international relations.
- Identify data sources for research in international relations.
- Summarize technical papers in International Relations.

**Course Materials:**

Lisa A. Baglione, *Writing a Research Paper in Political Science*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (Washington, DC: CQ Press, 2012).

Philip H. Pollock, *The Essentials of Political Analysis*. 5<sup>th</sup> edition (Washington, DC: CQ Press, 2016).

Philip H. Pollock, *An SPSS Companion to Political Analysis*. 5<sup>th</sup> edition (Washington, DC: CQ Press, 2015).  
**(Do NOT purchase a used version – this is a workbook)**

**Software Requirements:** Students will be expected to have access to SPSS, which is available to download for all UK students at no additional cost. Installation instructions for SPSS can be found here:

<https://www.uky.edu/its/customer-support-student-it-enablement/customer-services/software-downloads/statistical-software>

**Prerequisites:** None beyond those required for Patterson School admission.

**Office Hours:** Office hours will be on Wednesday from 4:30-6:00 in POT 1103 (the Patterson School conference room on the 11<sup>th</sup> floor). Please make use of office hours for any questions about the course or additional help. From time to time, other obligations may require me to reschedule office hours and I will announce in advance where possible.

**Canvas:** A Canvas site has been created for this course (<https://www.uky.edu/canvas/>). Students are responsible for checking the Canvas site on a regular basis for the most current course information. The course syllabus, course readings beyond the textbooks, lecture slides, links for electronic submission of assignments, and additional materials will be posted to the Canvas site. All assignments for this course will be submitted electronically on Canvas.

**Course Requirements:**

Research Proposal Paper	Credit/No Credit
SPSS Assignments (7 @ 5% each)	35%
Research Design Paper	15%
Draft Dataset	10%
Final Research Paper	30%
Participation	10%
Total	100%

## Assignment Descriptions

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### ***Research Project Proposal (Green/Yellow/Red Light)***

Each student is required to submit a research paper proposal (2-3 pages, or approximately 500-750 words in length) that details the proposed research question, justifies that question with reference to scholarly literature, and outlines the proposed variables and relationships for investigation. No letter grade will be assigned for this requirement. Instead, proposals will be evaluated on a “traffic light” scale (green/yellow/red light) to provide feedback and, if necessary, require re-writes and re-submissions before students proceed. All students must submit a paper proposal that meets the “green light” or “yellow light” criteria listed on the assignment description in order to proceed with their research projects. Additional assignment details will be provided on Canvas.

### ***SPSS Assignments (35%)***

Students will be asked to complete a total of seven homework assignments, each of which requires students to work with the statistical software used in this class (SPSS). Each homework assignment will be worth 5% of the overall course grade. Each homework assignment will be drawn from the required Pollock text, *An SPSS Companion to Political Analysis*. Instructions for how to complete and submit homework assignments will be provided on Canvas.

### ***Research Design (15%)***

Before proceeding to the analysis and writing stage of the final research paper, each student will submit an 8-10 page research design. A research design is a detailed plan for how you propose to conduct the research into your proposed topic (it is *not* the research paper itself). This assignment is your opportunity to demonstrate your knowledge of the course material we have covered to this point as well as your ability to apply this material by designing and discussing your proposed research project—with a specific emphasis on the *methodological* choices that you are making in designing the proposed research. The research design should follow the guidelines discussed in class and in relevant course readings. Your research design will serve as the foundation for the introduction and methodology section of your final research paper. As such, your work and the feedback you receive on this assignment will be essential to both the subsequent steps of your research process as well as to this section of your final research paper. Additional assignment details will be provided on Canvas.

### ***Draft Dataset (10%)***

Prior to conducting your analysis you will create and submit an organized dataset consisting of the data you propose to analyze for your final research project. The dataset that you create will contain data for your dependent variable, your independent variable, and at least two control variables. If all of your key variables come from the same dataset you will be required to merge in at least one variable from another dataset as a control. Collecting, organizing, merging, and checking a dataset can be a very time consuming process, so it is a good idea to start early. Additional assignment details will be provided on Canvas.

### ***Final Research Paper (30%)***

Each student will write an original scholarly research paper of approximately 25 pages in length (not counting the bibliography and any additional tables, charts, or appendices) on a topic to be developed in consultation with the instructor. The paper should develop a research question that produces competing explanations that can be researched and tested using quantitative methods, including multivariate regression. Additional assignment details will be provide on Canvas.

### ***Participation (10%)***

The overall participation grade for the course is based on active participation in class as well as active participation in various discussions and activities on Canvas.

## **Course Policies**

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### **Grading scale**

90-100% = A

80 – 89% = B

70 – 79% = C

Below 70%= E

### **Late Work, Extensions, Make-Up Assignments & Incompletes**

Late assignments will be penalized one full letter grade (e.g. from an A to a B). An additional full letter grade penalty will be assessed for each additional 24 hours the assignment is late. Exceptions from these rules will only be granted in cases of emergencies that are both genuine and certifiable (e.g., documented illness or medical treatment that was sufficiently severe or extensive to render timely completion of the assignment in question impossible). Similarly, extensions or incompletes will not be permitted except in cases of *documented* medical or other emergencies. Any of these potential accommodations discussed are conditional on *timely* provision of the required information and/or documentation. Please note that technology-related problems (computer crashes, lost data, etc.) are not automatic grounds for an extension or waiver of late penalties. You are responsible for backing up your work on a regular basis!

### **Attendance**

This is a required course for the Patterson School. Attendance is mandatory. More than two unexcused absences will result in the lowering of your grade by five percentage points for each additional absence. You are responsible for all work missed during absences.

## University Policies and Procedures

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### Excused Absences

Students need to notify the professor of absences prior to class when possible. *Senate Rules 5.2.4.2* defines the following as acceptable reasons for excused absences: (a) serious illness, (b) illness or death of family member, (c) University-related trips, (d) major religious holidays, and (e) other circumstances found to fit “reasonable cause for nonattendance” by the professor.

Students anticipating an absence for a major religious holiday are responsible for notifying the instructor in writing of anticipated absences due to their observance of such holidays no later than the last day in the semester to add a class. Two weeks prior to the absence is reasonable, but should not be given any later. Information regarding major religious holidays may be obtained through the Ombud (859-257-3737, [http://www.uky.edu/Ombud/ForStudents\\_ExcusedAbsences.php](http://www.uky.edu/Ombud/ForStudents_ExcusedAbsences.php)).

Students are expected to withdraw from the class if more than 20% of the classes scheduled for the semester are missed (excused) per University policy.

Per *Senate Rule 5.2.4.2*, students missing any graded work due to an excused absence are responsible: for informing the Instructor of Record about their excused absence within one week following the period of the excused absence (except where prior notification is required); and for making up the missed work. The professor must give the student an opportunity to make up the work and/or the exams missed due to an excused absence, and shall do so, if feasible, during the semester in which the absence occurred.

### Verification of Absences

Students may be asked to verify their absences in order for them to be considered excused. *Senate Rule 5.2.4.2* states that faculty have the right to request “appropriate verification” when students claim an excused absence because of illness, or death in the family. Appropriate notification of absences due to University-related trips is required prior to the absence when feasible and in no case more than one week after the absence.

### Academic Integrity

Per University policy, students shall not plagiarize, cheat, or falsify or misuse academic records. Students are expected to adhere to University policy on cheating and plagiarism in all courses. The minimum penalty for a first offense is a zero on the assignment on which the offense occurred. If the offense is considered severe or the student has other academic offenses on their record, more serious penalties, up to suspension from the University may be imposed.

Plagiarism and cheating are serious breaches of academic conduct. Each student is advised to become familiar with the various forms of academic dishonesty as explained in the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Complete information can be found at the following website: <http://www.uky.edu/Ombud>. A plea of ignorance is not acceptable as a defense against the charge of academic dishonesty. It is important that you review this information as all ideas borrowed from others need to be properly credited.

*Senate Rules 6.3.1* (see <http://www.uky.edu/Faculty/Senate/> for the current set of *Senate Rules*) states that all academic work, written or otherwise, submitted by students to their instructors or other academic supervisors, is expected to be the result of their own thought, research, or self-expression. In cases where students feel unsure about a question of plagiarism involving their work, they are obliged to consult their instructors on the matter before submission.

When students submit work purporting to be their own, but which in any way borrows ideas, organization, wording, or content from another source without appropriate acknowledgment of the fact, the students are guilty of plagiarism.

Plagiarism includes reproducing someone else's work (including, but not limited to a published article, a book, a website, computer code, or a paper from a friend) without clear attribution. Plagiarism also includes the practice of employing or allowing another person to alter or revise the work, which a student submits as his/her own, whoever that other person may be. Students may discuss assignments among themselves or with an instructor or tutor, but when the actual work is done, it must be done by the student, and the student alone.

When a student's assignment involves research in outside sources or information, the student must carefully acknowledge exactly what, where and how he/she has employed them. If the words of someone else are used, the student must put quotation marks around the passage in question and add an appropriate indication of its origin. Making simple changes while leaving the organization, content, and phraseology intact is plagiaristic. However, nothing in these Rules shall apply to those ideas, which are so generally and freely circulated as to be a part of the public domain.

Please note: Any assignment you turn in may be submitted to an electronic database to check for plagiarism.

### **Accommodations due to disability**

If you have a documented disability that requires academic accommodations, please see me as soon as possible during scheduled office hours. In order to receive accommodations in this course, you must provide me with a Letter of Accommodation from the Disability Resource Center (DRC). The DRC coordinates campus disability services available to students with disabilities. It is located on the corner of Rose Street and Huguelet Drive in the Multidisciplinary Science Building, Suite 407. You can reach them via phone at (859) 257-2754 and via email at [drc@uky.edu](mailto:drc@uky.edu). Their web address is <http://www.uky.edu/DisabilityResourceCenter>.

## **Tentative Course Schedule (HOG-777 topics in italic)**

### **Part I – Introduction**

Week 1 (8/22) Course Overview, Introduction to Social Science Research, The Research Question/*What is Defense Against the Dark Arts?*

### **Part II – Research Design and Levels of Measurement**

Week 2 (8/29) Concepts and Variables / *The Philosopher's Stone*

Week 3 (9/5) The Literature Review / *The Chamber of Secrets*

Week 4 (9/12) Measuring, Describing, and Transforming Variables / *The Sorting Hat*

Week 5 (9/19) Explanations, Hypotheses, and Comparisons / *A Day in the Life of Hagrid*

Week 6 (9/26) The Research Design and the Logic of Control / *Expelliarmus*

Week 7 (10/3) Finding, Importing, and Managing Data / *Taking on the Basilisk*

### **Part III - Bivariate Statistics (and Why We Need to Go Beyond Them)**

Week 8 (10/10) Controlled Comparisons / *Intro to Quidditch*

Week 9 (10/17) Foundations of Statistical Inference / *Junior Varsity Quidditch*

Week 10 (10/24) Tests of Significance and Measures of Association / *Varsity Quidditch*

### **Part IV - Multivariate Statistics**

Week 11 (10/31) Correlation and Linear Regression / *The Golden Snitch*

Week 12 (11/7) Organizing Data and Reporting Results / *The Return of the Basilisk*

Week 13 (11/14) Dummy Variables and Interaction Effects / *He Who Must Not Be Named*

**\*\*\*11/21-11/23 Thanksgiving Break – NO CLASS\*\*\***

Week 14 (11/28) Multi-Method Research / *Avoiding Azkaban*

Week 15 (12/5) Research Project Workshop / *The Deathly Hallows*

## Detailed Course Schedule

### Part I – Introduction

#### Week 1 (8/22) Course Overview, Introduction to Social Science Research, The Research Question

##### *What is Defense Against the Dark Arts?*

##### Readings

- Baglione, *Writing a Research Paper*, Preface and Chapters 1-2
- Pollock, *The Essentials of Political Analysis*, Preface and Introduction
- Pollock, *An SPSS Companion to Political Analysis*, Preface and “Getting Started.”
- Chicago Author-Date Citation Style Quick Guide (UK Library link on Canvas)

##### Activities/Assignments

- Week 1 Activity: Research Question Ideas
  - Post to discussion Canvas 48 hours **after** the Week 1 class (by Friday 8/24)
  - Comment on two other posts 48 hours **before** the Week 2 class (by Monday 8/27)

### Part II – Research Design and Levels of Measurement

#### Week 2 (8/29) Concepts and Variables

##### *The Philosopher’s Stone*

##### Readings

- Pollock, *Essentials of Political Analysis*, Chapter 1.
- Nicholas Sambanis, “What Is Civil War? Conceptual and Empirical Complexities of an Operational Definition” *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* 48 (2004): 814–858.
- Charles T. Call, “Beyond the ‘Failed State’: Toward Conceptual Alternatives,” *European Journal of International Relations* 17, no. 2 (2010): 303-326.

##### Activities/Assignments

- In-Class Activity: Concept Formation
- Research Proposal Paper (due by Friday 8/31)

### Week 3 (9/5) The Literature Review

#### *The Chamber of Secrets*

##### Readings

- Baglione, Chapters 3-4.
- Jeffrey Knopf, “Doing a Literature Review,” *PS: Political Science and Politics* 39, no. 1 (January 2006): 127-132.
- Research article excerpts:
  - Michael L. Ross, “Oil, Islam, and Women,” *American Political Science Review* 102, no. 1 (February 2008): 107-123 (read pp. 107-109 up to “How Oil Production...”)
  - Virginia Page Fortna, “Does Peacekeeping Keep Peace? International Intervention and the Duration of Peace After Civil War,” *International Studies Quarterly* 48 (2004): 269–292 (read pp. 269-276).
- Pollock, *SPSS Companion*, Chapter 1.

##### Activities/Assignments

- HW1 – Week 3 SPSS Homework (details on Canvas, submit prior to Week 3 class)

### Week 4 (9/12) Measuring, Describing, and Transforming Variables

#### *The Sorting Hat*

##### Readings

- Pollock, *Essentials of Political Analysis*, Chapter 2.
- Pollock, *SPSS Companion*, Chapters 2 & 3.
- Päivi Lujala, “Deadly Combat over Natural Resources: Gems, Petroleum, Drugs, and the Severity of Armed Civil Conflict,” *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* 53, no. 1 (February 2009): 50–71.

##### Activities/Assignments

- In-Class Activity: Levels of Measurement
- HW2 – Week 4 SPSS Homework (details on Canvas, submit prior to Week 4 class)

## Week 5 (9/19) Explanations, Hypotheses, and Comparisons

### *A Day in the Life of Hagrid*

#### Readings

- Baglione, *Writing a Research Paper*, Chapter 5.
- Pollock, *The Essentials of Political Analysis*, remainder of Chapter 3.
- Pollock, *SPSS Companion*, Chapter 4.
- Michael L. Ross, "Oil, Islam, and Women," *American Political Science Review* 102, no. 1 (February 2008): 107-123 (read pp. 109-112).

#### Activities/Assignments

- HW3 – Week 5 SPSS Homework (details on Canvas, submit prior to Week 5 class)

## Week 6 (9/26) The Research Design and the Logic of Control

### *Expelliarmus*

#### Readings

- Baglione, *Writing a Research Paper*, Chapter 7.
- Pollock, *The Essentials of Political Analysis*, Chapter 4.
- Michael L. Ross, "Oil, Islam, and Women," *American Political Science Review* 102, no. 1 (February 2008): 107-123 (read pp. 109-111).

#### Activities/Assignments

- Activity: Peer Review of Draft Research Designs (details on Canvas)

## Week 7 (10/3) Finding, Importing, and Managing Data

### *Taking on the Basilisk*

#### Readings

- Links to data on Canvas
- Review Pollock, *SPSS Companion*, Ch. 3 & 4.

#### Activities/Assignments

- Assignment: Research Design Paper (details on Canvas, due **48 hours prior** Week 7 Class)

## **Part III - Bivariate Statistics (and Why We Need to Go Beyond Them)**

### **Week 8 (10/10) Controlled Comparisons**

#### ***Intro to Quidditch***

##### Readings

- Pollock, *Essentials of Political Analysis*, Chapter 5.
- Pollock, *SPSS Companion*, Chapter 5.

##### Activities/Assignments

- HW4 – Week 8 SPSS Homework (details on Canvas, submit prior to Week 8 class)

### **Week 9 (10/17) Foundations of Statistical Inference**

#### ***Junior Varsity Quidditch***

##### Readings

- Pollock, *Essentials of Political Analysis*, Chapter 6.
- Pollock, *SPSS Companion*, Chapter 6.

##### Activities/Assignments

- Activity: Refining Research Design Choices
- Week 9 SPSS Homework (details on Canvas, submit prior to Week 9 class)

### **Week 10 (10/24) Tests of Significance and Measures of Association**

#### ***Varsity Quidditch***

##### Readings

- Pollock, *Essentials of Political Analysis*, Chapter 7.
- Pollock, *SPSS Companion*, Chapter 7.
- Virginia Page Fortna, “Does Peacekeeping Keep Peace? International Intervention and the Duration of Peace After Civil War,” *International Studies Quarterly* 48 (2004): 269–292 (review 269-276 and read remainder).

##### Activities/Assignments

- HW5 – Week 10 SPSS Homework (details on Canvas, submit prior to Week 10 class)

## **Part IV - Multivariate Statistics**

### **Week 11 (10/31) Introduction to Multiple Linear Regression**

#### ***The Golden Snitch***

##### Readings

- Pollock, *The Essentials of Political Analysis*, Chapter 8, pp. 183-198.
- Pollock, *An SPSS Companion to Political Analysis*, Chapter 8, pp. 112-116.

##### Activities/Assignments

- HW6 – Week 11 SPSS Homework (details on Canvas, submit prior to Week 11 class)

### **Week 12 (11/7) Organizing Data and Reporting Results**

#### ***The Return of the Basilisk***

##### Readings

- There are no assigned readings this week. Students should review the material from Week 7 and assemble their draft datasets.

##### Activities/Assignments

- Assignment: Draft Dataset (submit on Canvas 24 hours prior to Week 12 class)

### **Week 13 (11/14) Dummy Variables and Interaction Effects**

#### ***He Who Must Not Be Named***

##### Readings

- Pollock, *Essentials of Political Analysis*, Chapter 8, pp. 198-207.
- Pollock, *SPSS Companion*, Chapter 9.

##### Activities/Assignments

- HW7 – Week 13 SPSS Homework (details on Canvas, submit prior to Week 13 class)

**\*\*\*11/21-11/23 Thanksgiving Break – NO CLASS\*\*\***

**Week 14 (11/28)            Multi-Method Research**

***Avoiding Azkaban***

Readings

- Alexander George and Andrew Bennet, *Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences*. (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2005), Chapter 8.
- Michael L. Ross, "Oil, Islam, and Women," *American Political Science Review* 102, no. 1 (February 2008): 107-123 (read pp. 116-121).

Activities/Assignments

- Assignment: Preliminary Data Analysis (submit on Canvas 24 hours prior to Week 14)

**Part V - Conclusion**

**Week 15 (12/5)            Research Project Workshop**

***The Deathly Hallows***

Readings

- There are no assigned readings this week. Students should use the week to work on their individual research projects. The last class will be used to workshop an research issues, problems, or questions.

Assignments

- Final Research Paper (submit on Canvas by Wednesday, December 12)