



Course program and reading list

Semester 1 Year 2020

School: Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy & Strategy M.A

Research Methods M.A.

Lecturer:

Prof. Sivan Hirsch-Hoefler hsivan@runi.ac.il

Tutors:

Ms. Mabelle Kretchner kretchner.mabelle@post.runi.ac.il

Teaching Assistant:

Ms. Gili Dekel dgili@runi.ac.il

Ms. Mabelle Kretchner kretchner.mabelle@post.runi.ac.il

Course No.:	Course Type :	Weekly Hours :	Credit:
24001	Lecture	3	4

Course Requirements :	Group Code :	Language:
Final Exam	201400112	English

Prerequisites

Students who took one of the courses listed below will not be allowed to register to the course Research Methods M.A. (24001):

- 24119 - Intermediate Research Methods
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Course Description

The course is divided into four main parts: research design, research methods, data analysis, and presentation of research. Throughout the semester, students will also learn and use a statistical package, JMP. Each class will include a lecture and a lab. Times may vary in each meeting.

Course Goals

The research methods course is intended to provide students with skills essential to conduct basic empirical analyses. The course will focus on quantitative and qualitative research methods. It will survey the core research methods used in the field, and attempt to evaluate the way in which these methods can assist scholars to develop a valid and reliable research design.

Grading

Attendance in all lectures and lab sessions is mandatory.

- **Five assignments** (total of 50%). Assignments are done in pairs (no more than 2 people working together in each group, no exceptions). A student must receive a passing grade (at least 50) in all assignments in order to complete the course.

The last assignment (Assignment 6#) is optional. It will not count toward your course grade if you choose not to do it. The assignment will replace your lowest assignment grade. If your grade on the optional assignment grade is lower than your lowest assignment grade, it will not count against you. Thus, there is no potential negative outcome associated with the assignment.

- **Final exam** (50%): A student must receive a passing grade (at least 50) in the exam in order to complete the course.
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Lecturer Office Hours

Dr. Sivan Hirsch-Hoefler

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Office: C313

Office hours: by appointment



Teaching Assistant

Mabelle Kretchner Harpaz - kretchner.mabelle@gmail.com

Office hours: Friday 8:45-9:45 or immediately following the lab session.

Gili Dekel – gili@dekelnet.co.il

Office hours: Friday 8:45-9:45 or immediately following



Reading List

Required Text Book

Frankfort-Nachmias, C. and Nachmias, D. 2008. *Research Methods in the Social Sciences*. 7ed. New York: Worth Publishers.

Additional reading material will be posted on the course website (available under your myIDC)

Please note: Schedule and readings are subject to change. Pay attention and always*
!check the course website for the latest

Topics and Readings

1. **Foundations of Social Science Research**

1. Scientific Approach to the Research of Politics: Theory, Social Research and Ethics
 - Frankfort-Nachmias and Nachmias, 1, 2, 4
 - Schmidt, Diane, E. 2010. *Writing in Political Science: A Practical Guide*. Boston: Pearson Education, Chapter 1 [1-14]
 - Clark, J. A., & Cavatorta, F. (Eds.). (2018). *Political Science Research in the Middle East and North Africa: Methodological and Ethical Challenges*. Oxford University Press; Ch. 22 ("Intersectionality Theory and Working with "Both Sides")
2. Elements of Research
 - Frankfort-Nachmias and Nachmias, 3
 - King, Gary et al., 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press. pp: 3-28 <http://press.princeton.edu/chapters/s5458.pdf>
 - Shapiro, Ian. 2002. Problems, Methods, and Theories in the Study of Politics: Or, What's Wrong With Political Science and What to Do about It, *Political Theory* 30 (4): 596-619.

- Fenno, Richard F., Jr. 1986. Observation, Context, and Sequence in the Study of Politics. *American Political Science Review* 80: 3–15.
2. **Research Designs: Measurement and Sampling Methods**
- - Frankfort-Nachmias and Nachmias, 7, 8, 13
 - Mackenzie, Scott, B. 2003. The Dangers of Poor Construct Conceptualization. *Journal of the Academy of Marketing Science*, 31 (3): 323–326.
 - Stephen Jay G. 1981. *The Mismeasure of Man*. New York: Norton. Pp.19–29.
 - *** Akkerman, A., Mudde, C., & Zaslove, A. (2014). How populist are the people? Measuring populist attitudes in voters. *Comparative Political Studies*, 47(9) 1324–1353.
3. **Quantitative Research Methods**
1. Survey Research
- Frankfort-Nachmias and Nachmias, 10, 11
 - ***Hirsch-Hoefler, S., Canetti, D., Rapaport, C., & Hobfoll, S. E. 2016. Conflict will harden your heart: Exposure to violence, psychological distress, and peace barriers in Israel and Palestine. *British Journal of Political Science*, 46, 845–859.
 - Cavari, A., & Freedman, G. 2018. Polarized Mass or Polarized Few? Assessing the Parallel Rise of Survey Nonresponse and Measures of Polarization. *The Journal of Politics*, 80(2), 719–725.
 - Clark, J. A., & Cavatorta, F. (Eds.). (2018). *Political Science Research in the Middle East and North Africa: Methodological and Ethical Challenges*. Oxford University Press; Ch. 16 ("Quantitative Research in MENA Political Science")
 - Presser, Stanley, et al. 2004. Methods for Testing and Evaluating Survey Questions. *Public Opinion Quarterly* 68(1): 109–130.
 - Zaller, John R. and Stanley Feldman. 1992. "A Simple Theory of the Survey Response: Answering Questions versus Revealing Preferences." *American Journal of Political Science* 36:579–616.
- 3.2 Experiments and Quasi-Experiments
3. ◦
- Frankfort-Nachmias and Nachmias, 5, 6
 - ***Gross, M. L., Canetti, D., & Vashdi, D. R. 2017. Cyberterrorism: its effects on psychological well-being, public confidence and political attitudes. *Journal of Cybersecurity*, 3(1), 49–58.
 - Halperin, E., Porat, R., Tamir, M & Gross, E. 2013. Can Emotion Regulation Change Political Attitudes in Intractable Conflict? From the Laboratory to the Field. *Psychological Science*, 24, 106–111.
http://media.wix.com/ugd//75b8a6_01da885e6a34f6cabc1f3a97e937a164.pdf
 - Longo, Matthew, Canetti, Daphna, Hite, Nancy. A Checkpoint Effect? 2013. Evidence from a Natural Experiment on Travel Restrictions in the West Bank. *American Journal of Political Science*, 58(4), 1006–1023.

- McDermott, Rose. (2002). "Experimental Methods in Political Science." *Annual Review of Political Science* 5, 31-61.
 - Dunning, Thad. (2008). "Improving Causal Inference: Strengths and Limitations of Natural Experiments." *Political Research Quarterly* 61, 282-93.
4. **Analyzing (quantitative) Data**
- - Frankfort-Nachmias and Nachmias, 15, 16, 19
 - ***Zaidise, Eran. Canetti-Nisim, Daphna. Pedahzur, Ami .2007. Politics of God or Politics of Man? The Role of Religion and Deprivation in Predicting Support for Political Violence in Israel. *Political Studies* 55 (3): 499-521.***
 - Getmansky Anna and Zeitzoff Thomas. 2014. Terrorism and Voting: The Effect of Rocket Threat on Voting in Israeli Elections. *American Political Science Review*, 108(3), 588 - 604.

4.1 Descriptive statistics: displaying distributions with graphs and numbers

4.2 Probability distributions

4.3 Statistical inference: estimation and significance tests

4.4 Bivariate analysis

4.5 Multivariate analysis – regression

5. **Qualitative Research Methods**

- Frankfort-Nachmias and Nachmias 12
- ***Mudde, C., & Kaltwasser, C. R. 2013. Exclusionary vs. inclusionary populism: Comparing contemporary Europe and Latin America. *Government and Opposition*, 48(02), 147-174.
- Clark, J. A., & Cavatorta, F. (Eds.). (2018). *Political Science Research in the Middle East and North Africa: Methodological and Ethical Challenges*. Oxford University Press; Ch. 10 ("Interviewing Salafis: Negotiating Access and Ethics"), Ch. 14 ("Ethnography Is an Option: Learning to Learn in Yemen")
- Publishers, pp. 165-193. (Hebrew version, Israel Democracy Institute, 2010).
- Laver, Michael, and John Garry. (2000). "Estimating Policy Positions from Political Texts." *American Journal of Political Science* 44:619-34.
- Wolfsfeld, G., Frosh, P., & Awabdy, M. T. (2008). Covering death in conflicts: Coverage of the second Intifada on Israeli and Palestinian television. *Journal of Peace Research*, 45(3), 401-417
 1. Content analysis

5.2 Case studies

5.3 Interviews and focus groups as a tool in political research

5.4 The use of historical and archived sources for political research

6. **Writing and presenting social research**

- Frankfort-Nachmias and Nachmias, Appendix B
- Knopf, Stephan., and MacMenamin, Iain. 2008. How to Write a Literature Review, in Yoder, Stephen (ed.) *Publishing political science, The APSA Guide to Writing and Publishing*. Washington, D.C.: American Political Science Association.
- Kestellec, Jonathan P., and Eduardo Leoni. 2007. Using Graphs Instead of Tables in Political Science. *Perspectives on Politics* 5:755-71.

King, Gary, et al. 2000. Making the Most of Statistical Analyses: Improving Interpretation and Presentation. *American Journal of Political Science* 44:347-61.