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

Research Methods M.A.

Lecturer:
Prof. Sivan Hirsch-Hoefler  hsivan@idc.ac.il

Tutors:
Ms. Mabelle Kretchner  kretchner.mabelle@post.idc.ac.il

Teaching Assistant:
Ms. Gili Dekel  dgili@idc.ac.il

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

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

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

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Reading List

Required Text Book


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

2. Elements of Research
   - Frankfort-Nachmias and Nachmias, 3
2. **Research Designs: Measurement and Sampling Methods**
   - Frankfort-Nachmias and Nachmias, 7, 8, 13

3. **Quantitative Research Methods**
   1. Survey Research
      - Frankfort-Nachmias and Nachmias, 10, 11

3.2 Experiments and Quasi-Experiments
4. **Analyzing (quantitative) Data**
   - Frankfort-Nachmias and Nachmias, 15, 16, 19

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
     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