



Course program and reading list

Semester 1 Year 2023

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

Intermediate Research Methods

Lecturer:

Dr. Amnon Cavari cavari@runi.ac.il

Tutors:

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Teaching Assistant:

Ms. Gal Bitton Gal.Bitton@post.runi.ac.il

Course No.:	Course Type :	Weekly Hours :	Credit:
24119	Lecture	2	4

Course Requirements :	Group Code :	Language:
Final Paper	231411901	English

Prerequisites

Students who took one of the courses listed below will not be allowed to register to the course Intermediate Research Methods (24119):

24001 – Research Methods M.A.

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24101 – Research Seminar: National Security Decision Making

Course Description

Research methods for MA students of government doing a thesis track or interested in a research agenda.

Course Goals

The intermediate 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 known in the field, and attempt to evaluate the way in which these methods can assist scholars to develop a valid and reliable research design.

The course is divided into four main parts: research design, data collection, data analysis, and presentation of research. Throughout the semester, students will also learn and use a statistical package, Stata. Each class will include a lecture and a lab.

Grading

- One reaction paper on a published article (10%). You should consult with me on the paper and scheduling your presentation.
 - Four short data assignments (40%).
 - Research Project on a topic of interest to you, using a method of your preference.
 - One page research proposal.
 - Presentation of research proposal (10%).
 - Final research project. Up to 15 pages. (40%).
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Learning Outcomes

In Class

- Foundations of Social Science Research
 - Scientific Approach to the Research of Politics: Theory, Social Research and Ethics
 - Elements of Research
 - Research Designs: Measurement and Sampling Methods
- Data collection and analysis

- Statistical Inference
- Quantitative Research Methods
 - Survey Research
 - Experiments and Quasi-Experiments
 - Content Analysis
- Qualitative Research Methods
 - Case study
 - Interviews and Focus Groups
 - Participant observation
 - Archival work
- Writing and presenting social research

In TA Sessions

- Analyzing (quantitative) Data using Stata
 - Descriptive statistics: displaying distributions with graphs and numbers
 - Probability distributions
 - Statistical inference: estimation and significance tests
 - Bivariate analysis: t test and ANOVA
 - Correlations: Pearson, Spearman, Chi Square
 - Multivariate analysis: Regression
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Lecturer Office Hours

Thursday, 16:00-17:00. And by appointment.



Additional Notes

Assignments

- All assignments should be submitted through Moodle.
- All assignments should be submitted using font size 12, Times New Roman, double spaced and left aligned (or right aligned if in Hebrew), using the standard margins of at least 1" from the top and bottom of the page and 1.25" from both sides.
- Your analysis should be included in the body of the paper. Appendices should include only supplemental material.
- The reference list should be made in accordance with academic referencing guidelines; it is highly recommended that you use the ref-works software that is offered for free and is an internet based from the RU library (you will find a link to the software on your personal home page at RU). Note that you are still required to

ensure your references are properly formatted!

- Citations – the conventional citation rules apply to all papers. Guidelines can be found on the internet. Typical guidelines in political science are the American Political Science citation style, APA, and the Chicago Manual of Style. Either method is accepted as long as you are consistent. I strongly encourage starting to work with a dedicated reference program such as Zotero or Mendeley.
- Internet-based encyclopedias or any other additive internet knowledge based without appropriate supervision (for example Wikipedia) should not be used as an academic source.
- Please make sure you consult with the instructor or TA throughout the semester with regard to your assignments and research project.
- RU views plagiarism of any sort (copying from another student or a paper from a different source) very severely; please do not make this mistake.

Reaction paper (10%)

Write and Present in class a critical response to an article of interest to you. In the presentation, you should summarize the argument, the method (data and analysis), and findings, and provide a critique of the paper (theoretical or methodological). The article and submitted paper must be posted on Moodle by Tuesday, the same week you are supposed to present.

You may choose any article you want, but it has to be from one of the leading general journals in political science—for example, American Political Science Review (APSR), American Journal of Political Science (AJPS), Journal of Politics (JOP), International Organizations (IO), Public Opinion Quarterly (POQ). Please send the TA the paper you want to critique for approval at least two weeks before your presentation. Please contact me to schedule your presentation.

Research Project (40%)

You are required to conduct research on a topic of interest to you and use a method of your preference.

You will need to write a research proposal and a research design and collect and analyze data accordingly.

- **Submit a 1-page description of your research proposal**

The 1 page should include the research question, why the topic is interesting and worth studying, what your hypotheses are, how you will study the question and how you will collect data for it.

- Submit your data well in advance to allow us to comment and help you avoid errors. Contact us about it.
- **Presentation of Research Project (10%)**

Present your research project in class (approximately 10 minutes followed by a 5 minutes Q&A session). In your presentation, you should briefly summarize the research question

and hypotheses, describe your research design and data, and present your preliminary analysis.

- **Write-Up Your Research Project (30%), up to 15 pages**

Write a research paper that will offer a theoretically sound research question and a structured, focused, integrative and analytical examination of your research question.

This should be written as a short research note (a younger brother of an article) and follow the general design of a short article. It is OK to say that findings are limited, and you should address what could be done to improve your findings. What did you expect to find and how could this be further developed?



Reading List

Reading material is posted (and updated) on the course website.