**Antalya Bilim University**

**Department of Political Science and International Relations**

**POLS 209 (Section II)- Research Methods in Social Sciences**

**Fall 2019**

**Lecturer:** Dicle Korkmaz

**E-mail Address:** dicle.korkmaz@antalya.edu.tr (Please prefer the email as a way of communication)

**Class Time and Classroom:** Tuesday 11.30am- 12.50 pm, A2-03

Thursday 12.00 noon- 1.20 pm, A2-03

**Office Hours:** Thursday 1.30 pm-2.30

**Office:** A2-42

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is designed to introduce the students the basics of conducting research in social sciences. For this purpose, it first focuses on discussions on science and the scientific method in social sciences. Then we will explore the basic methods and analyses in both quantitative and qualitative research. The objective of the course is to make the students familiar with different approaches to research design, data collection as well as data analysis. The scientific approach and the statistical analysis will guide our inquiry about the quantitative methods and analysis. Alternatively, we will enquire both the scientific and the interpretive approaches and diverse methods such as participant observation, in-depth interviews, focus group interviews and content analysis when we focus on qualitative methods and analysis.

While the discussions on methods are set within larger framework of social sciences in general, specific examples and case studies will focus, in particular, on research in international relations.

**Course book:**

Chambliss, D. F. and Schutt, R. K. (2016). Making Sense of the Social World: Methods of Investigation (5th edition). California: Sage Publications. (Available in the ABU Library Reserve Desk) Please check your mailbox or the copy centre for other selected articles!

**EXPECTATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:**

1. **Attendance & Participation (10%)**: Attendance and participation make up 10% of your overall course grade. This is a general introductory course about research methods in social sciences; hence, we will be exploring different methodologies each week. Even missing only a few classes may result in loss of concentration and orientation towards the course. This situation, in turn, may influence your academic success not only in this semester but also in the upcoming semesters; because, as future social scientists you all need well-established research skills. As a result, it is utmost importance to follow the course on time. Attendance is very important in this course.

Students are also expected to actively participate in the course besides their attendance. Active participation means following the course carefully, asking questions when deemed necessary, making comments and giving examples about the relevant topics/themes. In short, you are expected to concentrate on our weekly titles of discussion and exploration to the fullest extent possible.

1. **Quizzes (15%):** You will have THREE quizzes throughout the semester and it will make 15% of your overall course grade. The quiz intervals are designed to test the student’s understanding of the course in different modules so to maintain student motivation throughout the course.
2. **Mid-term (30%):** You will have one mid-term exam throughout the semester and it will constitute 30% of your overall grade. Midterm will base on ALL of the course material we will cover until the exam date.
3. **Final exam (45%):** You will have a final exam at the end of the semester and it will make 45% of your overall grade. The majority of the final exam questions will base on the course material we will cover after the midterm exam.

**COURSE POLICIES:**

* **ATTENDANCE POLICY:** Attendance is mandatory. It is your responsibility to Students are kindly asked to come to the class on time and not to leave the class without prior permission of the instructor.
* **CLASSROOM CONDUCT:** Students should focus carefully on the course and avoid engaging in not-class related activities such as checking e-mails from laptops/cell phones, reading not-class related materials such as newspapers and magazines, engaging in side conversations. Furthermore, students should be respectful to each other. Any form of **hate speech and disruptive behavior** are not acceptable. Furthermore, students are responsible from the physical environment. They should clean up their garbage before leaving the class.
* **MOBILE PHONE POLICY:** Make sure that your mobile phones are switched off during class time.
* **MAKE-UP POLICY:** Only students who can prove a medical condition can be considered eligible for midterm make-up exam.In case of an emergency, students are asked to contact the instructor before or immediately after the midterm exam.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY**

There is **zero-tolerance** to any form of academic dishonesty. Any form of academic dishonesty (for ex. plagiarism, cheating during exams, re-submitting your own/someone else’s work for the course etc.) are unacceptable and will have serious results. Plagiarism refers to presentation of another person’s ideas or direct/paraphrased quotations in your own work without citations. Please consult the instructor when you have hesitations.

**COURSE SCHEDULE:**

**WEEK 1-2**  **General discussion on science and social research**

Bhattacherjee, A. (2012). Social Science Research: Principles, Methods, and Practices. *Textbooks Collection.* Book 3. Retrieved from <http://scholarcommons.usf.edu/oa_textbooks/3>. (Chapters 1 and 2)

Pew Research Center. (2018). US Views of China Report, 2018. Available at: <http://assets.pewresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2018/08/28101349/Pew-Research-Center_U.S.-Views-of-China_Report_2018-08-28.pdf>

**WEEK 3 Research Process: Formulating Research Questions**

Kumar, R. (2011). Research Methodology: A Step-by-step Guide for Beginners (3rd ed.). London, Thousand Oaks, New Delhi, Singapore: SAGE Publications. (Chapters 4 and 5)

**WEEK 4 Research Process: Literature Review**

Kumar, R. (2011). Research Methodology: A Step-by-step Guide for Beginners (3rd ed.). London, Thousand Oaks, New Delhi, Singapore: SAGE Publications. (Chapters 3)

**WEEK 5 Ethical considerations in research design**

Chambliss & Schutt, Chapter 3

**QUIZ#1**

**WEEK 6-7 Conceptualization, operationalization, measurement and sampling**

Chambliss & Schutt, Chapters 4 and 5

**WEEK 8 MIDTERM**

**WEEK 9 Qualitative data collection methods**

Chambliss & Schutt, Chapter 9

**WEEK 10 Qualitative data analysis**

Chambliss & Schutt, Chapter 10

**QUIZ#2**

**WEEK 11. Quantitative data analysis in political research**

Chambliss & Schutt, Chapter 6 (pp.111-115), Chapter 8

**WEEK 12- Quantitative data analysis in political research**

Chambliss & Schutt, Chapter 6 (pp.111-115), Chapter 8

**QUIZ#3**

**WEEK 13- 14 Examples of quantitative & qualitative political research**

ICPSR. How to Read (and Understand) a Social Science Journal Article. Available at: <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/files/instructors/How_to_Read_a_Journal_Article.pdf>

**Check your mailbox for additional readings!**

**There may be changes in the syllabus! In that case, the lecturer will inform you via email.**