

Antalya Bilim University
Department of Political Science and International Relations, POLS 703
Research Methods and Ethics
Fall 2024

Class time & Place: Wednesday, 10.00-13.00

Office hours: Wednesday 14.00 pm-15.00 pm

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(A2-31)

This course is designed to introduce students the basics of conducting research in social sciences. The objective of the course is to inform students about different research methodologies and analyses in social sciences. For this purpose, the course provides a general overview of quantitative and qualitative research methods. At the end of this course, students are expected to develop a fundamental understanding about research design, data collection and data analysis. The course is expected to provide a roadmap for graduate-level students to design their original research projects.

Course Materials:

The instructor will upload the relevant articles and book chapters to LMS system. It is the student's responsibility to open a LMS account and keep track of the course material from the LMS system.

Recommended readings:

Chambliss, D. F. and Schutt, R. K. (2016). *Making Sense of the Social World: Methods of Investigation* (5th ed.). California: Sage Publications.

Babbie, E. (2014). *The Basics of Social Research* (6th edition). Wadsworth, Cengage Learning.

Brady, H. and Collier, D. (2004). *Rethinking Social Inquiry, Diverse Tools, Shared Standards*, Rowman and Littlefield Publishers Inc.

Bryman, A. (2012). *Social Research Methods* (4th edition). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

King, G., Keohane, R. and Verba, S. (1994) *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. New Jersey: Princeton University Press

Kumar, R. (2011). *Research Methodology: A Step-by-Step Guide for Beginners* (3rd. edition). London: Sage Publications.

Creswell, J.W. (2009) *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches*. (3rd edition) Los Angeles: Sage Publications

Expectations & Requirements:

- 1) **Attendance & Participation (5%):** Attendance is compulsory in this course. Students who miss more than %30 of the course fail the course automatically (FX). Students are expected to come to class prepared and actively participate in weekly discussions. Your grade is comprised of both attendance and participation.
- 2) **Midterm (20%):** Students are responsible for all of the class material covered until the midterm exam.
- 3) **Research proposal submission (5%):** Students are expected to submit a proposal for their research by 6 November 2024, 17.00 p.m. the latest.
- 4) **Research Project (15%):** Students are expected to find an article of their interest and replicate a similar study by conducting a new data analysis. New data analysis refers to original research by utilizing an already existing data set. Alternatively, it may refer to analysis of data generated by students, using one of data collection methods we discuss in class. Please refer to the attached document titled **Guidelines for the Research Project** for details on the research project and important deadlines. Research paper's submission date is 25 December 2024, 17.00 p.m. the latest.
- 5) **Research project presentation (%5)** Students are expected to present their research to their professors and fellow students during the last two weeks of the semester.
- 6) **Final exam (50%):** Students are responsible from all class material covered after the midterm as well as the research paper they prepare during the semester.

Course Schedule

WEEK 1 (Sept. 23-29) Introduction / Syllabus / Expectations /Class conduct

WEEK 2-3 (Sep.30-Oct.13) General discussion on science and social research

King et.al., Chapter 1

Chambliss and Schutt, Chapter 2

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

Literature review. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2IUZWZX4OGI>

<http://writingcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/literature-reviews/>

WEEK 4 (Oct. 14-20) Significant concepts and ethical considerations in research design

Bryman, Chapters 1 & 2

Chambliss & Schutt, Chapter 3

Babbie, Chapter 4

WEEK 5. (Oct.21-27) Sampling

Chambliss & Schutt, Chapter 5

Babbie, pp. 194-237

Squire, Peverill. 1988. "Why the 1936 Literary Digest Poll Failed." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 52:125-133.

Enns, Peter K., and Jonathan P. Schuldt. 2016. "Are There Really Hidden Trump Voters?" *New York Times*. November 7. Available at <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/11/07/opinion/are-there-really-hidden-trump-voters.html>

WEEK 6-7 (Oct.28-Nov. 10) Qualitative logic and methodology

Bryman, pp. 430-521

Babbie, pp. Chapter 13 (pp. 402-436)

Chambliss & Shutt, Chapters 9, 10

****Research project proposal submission 6 November****

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WEEK 8. (Nov. 11-17) MIDTERM

NO CLASS
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WEEK 9-10 (Nov.18-Dec.1) Quantitative logic and methodology

Chambliss & Schutt, Chapter 7, 8

Babbie, pp. 127-162; 437-461

Recommended:

Bryman, pp. 159-183

World Values Survey (WVS) Database, <http://www.worldvaluessurvey.org/wvs.jsp>

Pew Research Center, <https://www.pewresearch.org/>

International Social Survey Programme (ISSP), <https://issp.org/>

WEEK 11 (Dec.2-8) STUDENT'S CONSULTATION FOR RESEARCH PAPERS

WEEK 12 (Dec. 9-15) A comparison of quantitative & qualitative political research

Mahoney, James, and Gary Goertz. 2006. "A Tale of Two Cultures: Contrasting Quantitative and Qualitative Research," *Political Analysis* 14:3, pp. 227-249.

Tarrow, "Bridging the Quantitative-Qualitative Divide," in Brady & Collier eds. *Rethinking Social Inquiry*, Oxford: Rowman and Littlefield.

WEEK 13-14 (Dec.16-29) Research project presentations

25 December Research project final submission date

Week 15 (Dec.30-Jan.5) Discussion and conclusion

Guidelines for the Research Project

The research project for POLS 703 course intends to provide students the opportunity to experience research design and execution, by utilizing one of the research methods taught in this course. For this reason, the students should first find a political science-related study, which presents a detailed discussion about its research method. As a second step, the students are expected to replicate this study. This replication may be much narrower in its scope, yet it should be an exact replication in terms of its research method.

Hence, there are three components of the research project:

- 1) Research proposal submission, due 6 November 2024 (5% of overall grade)
- 2) Research paper submission, due 25 December (15% of overall grade)
- 3) Research paper presentation, 18 and 25 December 2024 (5% of overall grade)

1) Research proposal submission: Before the project execution, students are expected to submit a research proposal by 6 November 2024, 17.00 p.m. the latest. Any late submissions after this date/time are subject to 20 points of reduction for each additional day of late submission. Late submissions on 20 November 2024 (after 17.00 p.m.) are subject to 10 points of reduction.

The students can only proceed to undertake their proposed research once their proposal is approved by the course instructor.

Below are the questions the students are supposed to reflect upon for their research proposal submission:

- 1) What is the main focus of your research? What is your research question?
- 2) Which article/study guides you in your research? Provide full reference.
- 3) What is the main research focus of this article?
- 4) Which method did this article utilize in its analysis?
- 5) What are the main findings of this article?
- 6) How will you replicate the method of this study in your own research?
- 7) Explain your research design.

All questions should be answered separately. The proposal should be written in a Word document, 12 fonts, Times New Roman with 1,5 spacing between the lines. Please print out and submit your proposal as a hard copy. Electronic submissions are not accepted.

2) Research paper submission: The students must submit their research that was approved in their respective proposals. Submission of a research project that is different than the one explained in the proposal **will receive an F**. The research paper will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- a) Did the student execute his/her research design effectively?
- b) Is the research paper clear about its research method?
- c) To what extent does the analysis rely on original data analysis?
- d) Does the analysis consistent with its research question and research design?

The students are expected to submit their research projects on 25 December 2024, 17.00 p.m. the latest. Any late submissions after this date/time are subject to 20 points of reduction for each additional day of late submission. Late submissions on 3 December 2019 (after 17.00 p.m.) are subject to 10 points of reduction.

The research project should be written in a Word document, 12 fonts, Times New Roman with 1,5 spacing between the lines. The minimum length is 10 pages and the maximum length is 15 pages, including the research design and references sections. Please print out and submit your research paper as a hard copy. Electronic submissions are not accepted. The research project should include the following sub-sections:

- 1. Abstract
- 2. Introduction
- 3. Literature Review
- 4. Methods & Data
- 5. Results
- 6. Discussion & Conclusion
- 7. References

3) Research paper presentation: The students will present their research during the 13th & 14th weeks of class. The presentation should be approximately 15 minutes. You should utilize PowerPoint to help visualize your work. The presentations will be evaluated according to following criteria:

- a) Clear communication of the research objective
- b) Clear communication of the research method
- c) A discussion of challenges encountered during data collection and analysis
- d) A clear discussion of research findings
- e) A clear discussion of the project's scientific and social relevance