

**INTL 4000 Research Design in International Affairs
Fall 2019**

Class Meeting Time: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 12:20 PM – 1:10 PM

Class Location: Park Hall 126

Instructor: Dr. Gulcan Saglam

E-mail: gsaglam@uga.edu

Office: 216 Candler Hall

Office Hours: MW 2:30 pm -3:30 pm

Communication and Announcements:

I will keep you updated about the course and any changes to the syllabus through the “ANNOUNCEMENTS” board on the class ELC page.

****PLEASE REGISTER FOR NOTIFICATIONS!**

When emailing me please only use your UGA email account and include your course number in the subject line. In most cases I will respond to emails **within 24 hours**. Importantly, before you email me please check **the syllabus** and the **ANNOUNCEMENTS** posted on eLC to be sure that your question has not been previously addressed.

You need your campus ID and password to get access to ELC. If you can't get access, there might be a problem with your campus ID or password, contact the help desk for assistance. If you can log in and see other classes on ELC but not mine then you might need to be added manually. In this case, send me an email from your UGA email account with the full course information (name, course code, days that class meets) to ask me to manually add you. **ELC problems are no excuse for having missed quizzes or announcements!**

Syllabus, Readings, and Policies:

Course Description:

The main goals of this course are to teach you to understand and analyze research in political science and to write like a social scientist. To that end, we will learn the methods, approaches, and common practices that political scientists use to conduct their research. This means that we will learn how to identify good and bad research but also how to create our own “good” research. By the end of this course you will be able to effectively analyze political research and bring your methods skills to bear on non-political problems as well.

I will take your viewpoints seriously, and I want all of us to learn from one another over the course of the semester. To facilitate this goal, I expect students to treat each other with respect, listen to conflicting opinions, and seek to discredit arguments rather than people. (Please, refer to the policy on disruptive behavior and note that I reserve the right to remove students from class for disruptive and/or disrespectful behavior towards me or other students.)

By the end of this course, you will:

1. Identify the fundamental components, approaches, methods, and common practices of scientific social research.
2. Evaluate the quality of scientific and non-scientific research and distinguish between the two.
3. Articulate the process of crafting an excellent research design and paper.
4. Analyze published work in political science, identifying the components (including thesis, methodology, assumptions, and data) and evaluating its claims.
5. Justify theses and conclusions through the use and analysis of evidence.

- Craft a research design or paper to explore a social problem, carry out the design, and evaluate the resulting data.

Materials:

There are three required books for this course.

- Bhattacharjee, Anol, *Social Science Research: Principles, Methods, and Practices* (2012). Textbooks Collection. 3. http://scholarcommons.usf.edu/oa_textbooks/3
- Baglione, Lisa A. *Writing a Research Paper in Political Science: A Practical Guide to Inquiry, Structure, and Methods*. 3rd Edition.
- Wheelan, Charles *Naked Statistics: Stripping the Dread from the Data* 1st Edition
- Additional readings on eLC or visits to websites (see schedule)

Course Evaluation:

Final Grade Scale:

A	=	94 and higher	C+	=	77-79
A-	=	90 -93	C	=	74-76
B+	=	87-89	C-	=	70-73
B	=	84-86	D	=	60- 69
B-	=	80-83	F	=	59 and below

Your final grade will be based on:

Participation (15 pts): Much of class will be spent engaged in discussion, and group exercises. The quality of your participation in these discussion and exercises will have a bearing on 12.5% of your final grade. There might be announced or unannounced quizzes as part of your participation grade.

Professional conduct is expected and rewarded in this class. This means showing up to class on time and ready to engage with the course. It also means following all of the guidelines and policies outlined in this syllabus, not texting/emailing/Instagramming during class, being respectful to your classmates during discussions, etc. I expect every student to earn a 100% in this category.

Homework Assignments (20 pts): Most weeks you will have homework assignments for the class, consisting of problem sets to practice the class lessons or assignments related to the Research Design Paper project. Collectively, these assignments will form 20% of your final grade, though some might be worth more than others.

Article Review (5 pts): One of the main learning outcomes in this class is the ability to understand and analyze research in political science and/or international relations. To that end, we will spend the first part of the course learning how to identify hypotheses, theories, and sources and to evaluate evidential claims. In this project, you will review an assigned published article or book chapter in political science and identify its components and engage in a discussion of its methodology and claims. An example for this assignment will be provided.

Research Design Paper (25 pts): You will be writing a 10-15 page research design paper. The first part of your paper is your introduction and literature review. You should use the first section of this paper to identify the theoretical or empirical puzzle that you want to investigate and to analyze the current state of research on that question. Where possible, it is usually better to group existing arguments into schools rather than to present a laundry list of books or articles.

The second part of your research design paper should include your theory, hypotheses, and empirical research design. In this part, be sure to identify your dependent and independent variables along with any control variables, and then to present a logical causal argument for the relationship among these variables. Identify also the boundaries of your argument and the extent to which it is generalizable, and be sure to derive testable hypotheses. Then go on to develop a clear strategy for testing your theoretical argument with empirical data, either quantitative, qualitative, or both. Use this section to operationalize your variables (i.e. to discuss how you will measure the concepts identified in your theory), and to discuss your testing strategy (i.e. cases selected, datasets used, techniques and approaches, etc.). You are not required to execute the analysis for this paper.

Ethics of Research and Writing Assignment (10 pts): Each of you will complete the Ethics in Research training at <http://phrp.nihtraining.com/users/login.php>. At the end of training (which takes approximately 3 hours) you will take a series of quizzes; successful completion will result in a certificate.

You MUST email me the link to your certificate and/or print out your certificate and turn it in to get credit for this assignment. Assignment graded as pass/fail. It is worth 5% of your final course grade, and is due **August 19th**. You can do it any time prior to that date, but no late certificates will be accepted.

Midterm Exam (25 pts): You will have one exam in this course. It may be composed of multiple choice, true/false, fill-in, matching, or short answer questions. The will be closed-book and closed-note, and you may not use a calculator or any other aid. The only exception to the closed-note rule is that, you may prepare for yourself a cheat sheet: one sheet of 8.5"x11" paper onto which you may put any material you wish. You must prepare the cheat sheet yourself, and you must do so from scratch. That is, you may not directly reproduce (i.e., photocopy, scan, copy and paste, etc.) any material from any source, including your own notes.

Please note that if you have specific grade requirements (for your major, for your scholarship, etc.) you need to make sure you work towards them from the beginning of the semester. Any efforts to get me to change your grade at the end of the semester based on your sudden realization that you need a better grade than you actually earned will not be accommodated. I am more than happy to work with you throughout the semester to make sure that you can get the grade you deserve. It is therefore in your best interest to talk to me early on. If you encounter any problems, you need to let me know so that I can help you as much as possible. I will not be able to help you after deadlines have passed and the semester is over.

Attendance: Attendance is NOT a formal requirement. However, in order to do well in this class, you need to listen to the lectures, take notes and participate in discussions. Please note that I DO NOT hand out my lecture notes. It is your responsibility to keep up with readings and lecture notes as exams and quizzes will be based both on lecture and reading content. If you miss class, ask your classmates for help with what was covered. DO NOT ask me whether we covered anything important on a day you missed. All classes are important. ☺

Policy on missed papers and examinations: Makeup examinations will ONLY be given in cases of legitimate and documented emergencies. These makeup exams can be more difficult than the regular ones. Do not miss an examination unless there is a real emergency.

To have an **excused absence** on an exam date, you need to provide a doctor's note or evidence of family emergency situations or provide evidence of having attended a university-sponsored event (e.g. athletic

event, MUN/debate, etc.). While you won't know of medical or family emergencies beforehand, sponsored events are scheduled and you must give me plenty of advance warning before you have to miss a class for such an event.

Please note: for medical emergencies, it is not enough to just provide a doctor's prescription, a hospital bracelet or an undated and/or unsigned form letter. Each doctor's note needs to have your name, the doctor's name and office address as well as be precise as to the time and date of the emergency and the time/date has to cover our class time or else it will not be accepted as a valid excuse. In other words, going to the doctor the day after you missed a class is not a valid excuse. If you're unwell, see the university's health services or other health services immediately. If for any reason you don't want to see a doctor, that is of course your choice. However, do note that **you will not be able to make up a missed exam if I don't have proper documentation**. Also, you must understand that the department only offers a few make up testing days/times during the semester and you must be able to attend those in order to make up a test (most of the time, make up tests are scheduled for Fridays during the 1-4pm time slot). My recommendation is that you avoid having to make up exams as much as possible!

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: UGA is committed to providing equal access to academic programs and university-administered activities and reasonable modifications to students with disabilities. Students in need of academic accommodations need to request such services from the Disability Resource Center located at 114 Clark Howell Hall (for more information visit www.drc.uga.edu) and should make an appointment to see me with their appropriate paperwork from the DRC within the first two weeks of classes.

UGA's code of conduct protects student privacy and intellectual property and thus prohibits recording and digital release of classroom lectures and conversations unless a student has an accommodation from the DRC. If this is your situation, please let me know and we will devise an accommodation that protects your right to privacy, that of your classmates, and everyone's intellectual property.

Late Homework: Homework assignments are due at the beginning of class on the day they are assigned (hardcopy & softcopy). There is a 1 pts. point reduction for late homework.

Late Papers and Projects: Larger-scale Assignments—such as the article review and research design paper—will be penalized if they are turned in late. For each day that passes after the initial due date, there is a 0.5 pts. reduction. Papers turned in more than 3 days late without prior written permission from the instructor will not be accepted.

Policy on Disruptive Behavior:

In order to make this a successful class, it is important that we create an environment where everyone has an opportunity to learn. To this end, you should know that the university policy on disruptive behavior in class applies. Below is an extract from the university handbook on disruptive behavior. Please pay special attention to the underlined sections.

“Disruptive student behavior is student behavior in a classroom or other learning environment (to include both on and off-campus locations), which disrupts the educational process. Disruptive class behavior for this purpose is defined by the instructor. Such behavior includes, but is not limited to, verbal or physical threats, repeated obscenities, unreasonable interference with class discussion, making/receiving personal phone calls or pages (text messaging) during class, leaving and entering class frequently in the absence of notice to instructor of illness or other extenuating circumstances, and persisting in disruptive personal conversations with other class members. For purposes of this policy, it may also be considered disruptive behavior for a

student to exhibit threatening, intimidating, or other inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates outside of class.”

Cell Phones and Laptops: All cell phones and other communication devices must be turned off. If you have a situation with children or other emergency that requires you to keep your phone on, **notify me before class**, set your phone to vibrate and remove yourself from class with as little disruption as possible to answer it. This is only for rare and genuine emergencies. Phones are to be turned off during all exams, with no exceptions granted.

I have a **NO LAPTOP** policy unless I ask you to bring your laptops for a specific class. You will not be able to use your laptop in class. Instead you should focus on taking notes in long hand. Research has shown that this actually improves your ability to retain the material covered in class.

Failing to abide by the cellphone and/or laptop policy will cost you your participation point for that day, even though I do not explicitly say anything in class.

Policy on academic dishonesty: I take academic honesty VERY seriously. In the interests of fairness and academic integrity university policies will be strictly enforced. As a University of Georgia student, you have agreed to abide by the University’s academic honesty policy, “A Culture of Honesty,” and the Student Honor Code. All academic work must meet the standards described in “A Culture of Honesty” found at: <http://www.uga.edu/honesty>. Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a violation. Any student caught cheating or plagiarizing will be referred to Judicial Affairs, as required by university policy.

Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to:

- A. **Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is presenting another person’s work as one’s own. Plagiarism includes any paraphrasing or summarizing of the works of another person without acknowledgement, including the submitting of another student’s work as one’s own...
- B. **Cheating on Examinations;** Cheating on examinations involves giving or receiving unauthorized help before, during, or after an examination.

Make sure that you understand how to **avoid charges of academic dishonesty**. Any work that is found to contain other people’s work without proper attribution or is found cheating on exams will receive a failing grade and this can be used to fail you for the entire course and result in you being reported to the Office of the Dean of Students.

Ignorance will never be accepted as an excuse for plagiarism!

Withdrawal by midpoint: Please note, the semester’s midpoint is **October 21st**. By this date, students can withdraw from the class and receive a W for the class.

End of semester evaluations: Your constructive assessment of this course plays an indispensable role in shaping education at University of Georgia. Upon completing the course, please take time to fill out the online course evaluation.

Even before the end of the semester, however, I would like to know how this class is going. If at any time you have concerns about this class, please talk to me so that we can address them before the semester is out. The sooner we talk about issues the faster we can take care of them.

Please note: this syllabus provides a general plan for the course and deviations may be necessary.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Aug. 19th – Ethics Training
- Oct. 7th – Midterm Exam
- Oct. 21st – Last Day to Withdraw
- Nov. 20th – Article Review
- Dec. 6th – Research Design Paper

Course Outline:

You are responsible for completing the readings in a timely manner in line with the speed at which we move through the topics. In order to know what topic is being covered (and therefore what reading is required) you need to attend on a regular basis as the following schedule can change according to the needs of the class. All readings can be found in the required textbooks or through the links I provided).

SECTION I:
<u>Week 1:</u>
August 14th Course Introduction and Syllabus
August 16th What is Social Science? <u>Reading:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bhattacharjee Chapter 1

SECTION I: Asking Good Questions
<u>Week 2:</u>
August 19th Ethics of Research and Citations <u>Reading:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bhattacharjee Chapter 16 <u>Due Today:</u> ETHICS Training
August 21st Formulate a Research Question

Reading:

- Bhattacharjee Chapter 3
- Baglione Chapters 1 and 2 (eLC)

August 23rd Research Paper Workshop

Due Today:

HW1: Research Question Proposals for the Research Paper.

Week 3: Sources, Literature Review, and Ethical Use of Information

August 26th Finding Sources

Reading:

- Baglione Chapter 3

August 28th Writing Annotated Bibliography

August 30th Writing the Literature Review

Reading:

- Knopf, Doing the Literature Review (WCR)
- Baglione Chapter 4

Due Today:

HW2: Find minimum 5 scholarly sources with biggest contributions to answering your research question.

Week 4:

Sept 2nd -----LABOR DAY -----

Sept 4th Research Paper Workshop

Due today:

HW3: Annotated Bibliography for the Research Paper (Mimic the example on Baglione page 78-82).

Sept 6th Theories, Models, and Hypotheses

Reading:

- Bhattacharjee Ch 2

Week 5:

Sept 9th Theories, Models, and Hypotheses

Reading:

- Baglione Chapter 5
- Bhattacharjee Chapter 4

Sept 11th Theories, Models, and Hypotheses

Sept 13th Research Paper Workshop

Due Today:

HW4: What is the answer you are offering to your research question? What is your model? What are your hypotheses?

Week 6:

Sept 16th Variables

Reading:

- Bhattacharjee Chapter 6
- Baglione Chapter 7 (p. 160-163)

Sept 18th Variables ctd.

Sept 20th Research Paper Workshop

Due Today:

HW5: What is your dependent and independent variables? Are there any intervening variables that might link your DV and IV? What are some control variables you need to account for?

Week 7:

Sept 23rd Operationalizing Variables

Reading:

- Shively Chapter 4 (WCR)
- Bhattacharjee Chapter 7

Sept 25th Consistency and Accuracy of Measures

Reading:

- TBA

Sept 27th Research Paper Workshop

Due Today:

HW6: Conceptual and Operational Definitions for the major concepts of your hypotheses of your research paper.

Week 8: Choosing Cases

Sept 30th Population, Sample, and Sample frame

Reading:

- Wheelan Ch. 1 and 8

Oct 2nd Sampling Methods

Reading:

- http://conflict.lshtm.ac.uk/page_29.htm

Oct 4th Research Paper Workshop + Exam Review

Due Today:

HW 7: Case Selection for the Research Paper

Week 9: Generating Data

Oct 7th MIDTERM EXAM

Oct 9th Primary vs. Secondary Data

Reading:

- Wheelan Ch. 7 and Ch. 8

Oct 11th Survey Data

Reading:

- Whelan Ch. 10
- https://www2.virginia.edu/processsimplification/resources/survey_design.pdf
- <https://www.surveymonkey.com/mp/survey-guidelines/>

Week 10: Research Design

Oct 14th Methodology

Reading:

- Bhattacharjee Chapter 5
- Baglione Chapter 7

Oct 16th Strength and Weaknesses of Different Methods

Reading:

- <http://www.learningscientists.org/blog/2018/3/8-1>
- <https://www.verywellmind.com/internal-and-external-validity-4584479>

Oct 18th Research Paper Workshop

Due Today:

HW8: What specific method are you going to use to test your claim? Why do you think this is an appropriate method for your research? What are the strengths and weaknesses of this method?

Week 11: Intro to Quantitative Analysis

Oct 21st Descriptive Statistics

Reading:

- Wheelan Ch. 2

Oct 23rd Descriptive Statistics

Reading:

- Baglione Chapter 8 (p. 202-216)

Oct 25th Bivariate Analysis

Reading:

- Wheelan Ch, 4

Week 12:

Oct 28th Bivariate Analysis

Reading:

- Wheelan Ch, 5 & 6

Oct 30th Bivariate Analysis

Reading:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=27ywsOzDzJM>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=372iaWfH-Dg>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2SCg8Kuh0tE>

Nov 1st ----- FALL BREAK -----

Week 13: Generating Data: Content Analysis

Nov 4th Conducting a Content Analysis

Reading:

- <https://writing.colostate.edu/guides/pdfs/guide61.pdf>

Due Today:

- HW 9: Bad Statistics Worksheet

Nov 6th Conducting a Content Analysis

Nov 13th Conducting a Content Analysis

Week 14: Qualitative Analysis

Nov 11th Qualitative Analysis

Reading:

- Baglione p. 130-140
- Bhattacharjee ch 13

Nov 13th Case Studies

Reading:

- <https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/7d67/7b30ea32905e8c6cca72a431b0765bf5d58c.pdf>

Nov 15th The Comparative Method

Reading:

- George and Bennett Chapter 8 (eLC)
- <https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/7d11/098671a75e7b289fd65adab2eb236c5cf580.pdf>

Due Today:

HW10: Qualitative Analysis Worksheet

Week 15:

Nov 18th Research Paper Workshop

Nov 20th Research Paper Workshop

Due Today:

Article Review

Nov 22nd Research Paper Workshop

THANKSGIVING BREAK

Nov 25th - 27th - 29th NO CLASS

Week 16:

Dec 2nd EXTENDED OFFICE HOURS 10:00 – 13:00

Dec 6th Research Design Paper 5:00pm