



TROY UNIVERSITY ATLANTIC REGION
COURSE SYLLABUS (Hybrid)
IR6601: Research Methods in IR
Term 08T5
May 27 – July 27, 2008

INSTRUCTOR/PROFESSOR: David R Hayes, PhD

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MEETING LOCATION, DATES & TIMES: This course will meet Thursday evening 6-9pm in the Educations Service Annex at the corner of Deglopper and Gorham Rds on Fort Bragg Center, and use a hybrid-learning format. Please see Method of Instruction and the Schedule of Readings and Assignments for details on meeting dates and requirements.

CONSULTATION HOURS: Consultation times can be scheduled with the instructor on Monday, Wednesday and Friday Noon-5pm by phone. I can also meet before (with advance notice) or after class.

CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION: An investigation of the research methodologies employed in the study of International Relations including research design, variables and hypotheses, citations and reference, qualitative analysis and quantitative techniques. A substantial research paper is required in the course. Note: MSIR candidates must achieve a grade of "B" or better in IR 6601 to complete degree program requirements.

OVERALL PURPOSE: Students will be able to conduct their own scholarly research and interpret the research of others.

METHOD OF INSTRUCTION: This course will be delivered using a hybrid-learning format. This means that while most of the 45 contact hours of the course schedule will be in-class sessions; there are scheduled online meetings, exercises, and/or discussions. Six class sessions will be delivered using in class sessions on the two weekends. Four class sessions will be delivered over the Internet using the Blackboard system. A Blackboard site has been created to help manage class activities and to promote interaction among students. Blackboard will be used to provide such things as class announcements, lecture slides, syllabi, additional readings, and interactive forums for on line class meetings/exercises/ and or discussions. Access procedures will be provided at

the first class session. Please see schedule of readings and assignments at the end of the syllabus for further detail. For online class meetings, students are evaluated on the quantity (level of participation), quality (content) of participation, and the fulfillment of requirements and deadlines.

STUDENT OUTCOMES/ COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course the student should be able to:

- Explain the philosophy of social science research.
- Apply scientific method to a research topic.
- Plan a research project.
- Write a substantial research paper.
- Support a conclusion based on empirical research.

ENTRANCE COMPETENCIES: Students will be expected to be proficient in critical thinking and critical writing, formatting papers in APA style, the use of the internet, email, MS Word, MS PowerPoint, and in conducting research through the Troy University Remote Library.

COURSE TECHNOLOGY:

Email: All official University communications with TROY students, will be sent through the Trojan (TROY) e-mail address assigned to them. All official information, including but not limited to student billing, faculty-student communications, registration changes, and financial aid information, sent to students' assigned Trojan e-mail addresses will constitute official notice. The University accepts no responsibility for any forwarding of e-mail that students may choose to undertake from their official Trojan e-mail accounts. The University is only responsible for ensuring that official e-mail is sent out to those student e-mail accounts that are maintained by the University. All students are responsible for monitoring their Trojan e-mail accounts frequently. Students can access their e-mail by visiting www.troy.edu and selecting the Trojan E-Mail link.

Internet Access: Students will require access to BlackBoard and Trojan Web Express via the Troy University web site. If students do not have internet access, be advised that local and military libraries offer internet access..

STUDENT REQUIREMENTS:

- **Upon Enrollment:** Students must print out and read the syllabus, verify their email address in blackboard.
- **Discussion Board:** There will be 4 graded distance learning (DL) exercises on Blackboard throughout the course. (See Schedule of Readings and Assignments)

- **Research Paper:** Students will be required to write a significant research paper. The purpose of this assignment is for students to acquire direct familiarity with the procedures of the social scientific method.

Students should try to find topics which interest them, keeping in mind the availability of data, and formulate one or more hypotheses which can be easily tested using techniques they understand. Students are strongly encouraged to discuss their topics with the instructor very early during the term to ensure that projects are of proper scope and difficulty.

The Research Paper is broken into three assignments:

- **Statement of the Topic (DL 2):** An explanation of your own research problem and why it merits being studied in the context of the fields of International Relations. This should include a bibliography of at least 5 sources related to the issue under study. These should include at least four books or articles from relevant academic journals. Some relevant journalistic sources (i.e news magazines) could be included. Students are encouraged to explore on-line sources, but should verify their origins before including them. (estimated length, 2-3 pages)
- **Research Design (DL 4):** Students will prepare a research design that will describe how they intend to answer the question posed in their statement of topic. This research design will include definition and operationalization of key terms, any conceptual/theoretical framework required for the research, and a substantive outline of the paper. (estimated length 5-7 pages)
- **Final Paper:** Students will write a 20-page research paper on their topic.

METHOD OF EVALUATION:

The student's overall performance will be established by

ASSIGNMENT OF GRADES:

Evaluation: Grades for the semester will be based on the following criteria:

-- DL 1 (Paper Summary)	10%
-- DL 2 (Statement of Topic)	10%
-- DL 3 (Paper Analysis)	10%
-- DL 3 (Research Design)	20%
-- Final Paper	50%

Final letter grades are then calculated on the following basis:

A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	<60%

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Attendance is mandatory. No automatic cuts are authorized. Excessive absences will be reported to appropriate Veterans Administration and military officials. Arrangements for excused absences must be made PRIOR to the absence.

MAKE-UP WORK POLICY:

All classes missed must be made up, regardless of whether the absences were excused or unexcused. Make-up assignments will be given by the instructor on an individual basis.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S) AND/OR OTHER MATERIALS:

Required: Creswell, John. 2002. *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches* (2nd Edition) Sage Publications. ISBN-10: 0761924426

Recommended reference:

American Psychological Association (2001). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (5th Ed.) Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Merrill.

Research as necessary to complete required assignments.

STANDARD UNIVERSITY POLICIES:

INCOMPLETES

A grade of "I" is not automatically assigned, but rather must be requested by the student by submitting to the instructor the Petition for and Work to Remove an Incomplete Grade form. An "I" can never be used in lieu of an "F" nor can an "I" be assigned because of excessive absences, with the exception that the student will make up the work by repeating all or part of the class in some subsequent term. No "Incomplete" may exceed nine weeks from the date it is assigned. Failure to clear the incomplete within the specified time period will result in the assignment of a grade of "F" for the course.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA):

Troy University supports Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, which insure that postsecondary students with disabilities have equal access to all academic programs, physical access to all buildings, facilities and events, and are not discriminated against on the basis of disability. Eligible students, with appropriate documentation, will be provided equal opportunity to demonstrate their academic skills and potential through the provision of academic adaptations and reasonable accommodations. Further information, including appropriate contact information, can be found at the following link:
<http://www.troy.edu/humanresources/ADAPolicy2003.htm>

Students who have or may be dealing with a disability or learning difficulty should speak with the Office of Student Services, 757-274-0511 as soon as possible in order to ensure eligibility under the ADA.

STUDENT ORIENTATION AND COURSE PRE-REQUISITE SKILL REQUIREMENTS:

1. New students are required to complete an "in person" orientation with a site representative prior to enrolling. The "on-line" orientation session found at <http://ar.troy.edu/studentorientation/index.html> is the next step in the Troy University –Atlantic Region orientation process. It reinforces the discussions with the site representative and provides new students with all of the essential information to succeed in graduate education.
2. All students should ensure that they have developed certain pre-requisite skills prior to beginning courses. These skills include demonstrating writing proficiency in term papers, preparing PowerPoint slides for class presentations, using SPSS and Excel for statistical analysis, and conducting academic research through the Troy University library system. The links at the bottom of the Atlantic Region New Student Orientation page contain tutorials in each of these skills areas that will assist students in developing the skills required for graduate course work.

STANDARDS OF CONDUCT:

By their enrollment, students are responsible for following the “Standards of Conduct” as they apply in the Troy University Atlantic Region. Students may be disciplined up to and including suspension and expulsion for the commission of offenses in described on page 22 of the 2007-2008 Graduate Catalog. As a reminder to graduate students, the “Standards of Conduct” regards dishonesty as an offense, which includes cheating and plagiarism. Students should carefully study the definitions of cheating and plagiarism:

1. Cheating includes:

- a) Copying, or relying upon, another student’s answers or submitting another student’s work as one’s own or submitting as new work assignments previously completed for another class, while completing any class assignment, study group assignment, or during in-class or take-home examinations.
- b) Providing one’s own answers to another student while completing any class assignment, study group assignment (except where approved by the instructor due to the nature of the assignment itself), or during in-class or take-home examinations.

c) Using notes, books, or any other unauthorized aids during an examination; or holding an unauthorized discussion of answers during in-class examinations.

2. Plagiarism is submitting a paper, other required student course requirement in which the language, ideas, or thoughts are identical to published or unpublished material from another source, including material found on the Internet, without correctly giving credit to that source. A good rule of thumb for correctly crediting a source is found in the citation below:

"Quotation marks should be used to indicate the exact words of another. Summarizing a passage or rearranging the order of a sentence and changing some of the words is paraphrasing. Each time a source is paraphrased a credit for the source needs to be included in the text. ... The key element of this principle is that an author does not present the work of another as if it were his or her own work. This can extend to ideas as well as written words." (*Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 2001, p.349)

While computers and the Internet allow students to cut and paste work from other material, new software is making it easier for universities detect plagiarism. Instructors may screen electronic versions of student assignments using the detection software. To avoid the pitfalls of plagiarism, students are strongly encouraged to review information on it available through Troy University Writing Center resources (<http://troy.troy.edu/writingcenter/index.html>)

LIBRARY SERVICES INFORMATION

For online journals and eBooks, follow the "Library" links from the Troy University homepage or the Atlantic Region homepage. Choose "Databases (book & journal) on the University College Library Services page. From the Troy University Libraries Online Resources page, use the pull down menu in the center of the page for A-Z or subject listings of databases.

Once you click on one of the database links, you'll be asked to login with your Trojan email account ID and password. Your email address is the same as your Trojan Web Express ID. If you do not know your Trojan Web Express ID, follow this link: http://it.troy.edu/email/user_id_help.html To request to have your email password reset, follow this link <http://it.troy.edu/email/index.html>

Susan W. Cornett
Atlantic Region Librarian
Troy University
Bateman Library
42 Ash Avenue
Langley Air Force Base, VA 23665
swcornett@troy.edu
757-865-7880 (voice mail)
757-865-3295 (fax)
888-241-0277 (toll free)

Live Chat, an instant messaging service, for online assistance from the TROY Libraries, is available 24 hrs a day, 7 days a week. There is a link to that service on the University College Library Services Web page, <http://uclibrary.troy.edu>

The Troy University Atlantic Region Library is located at Herbert H. Bateman Memorial Library, 42 Ash Ave., Langley Air Force Base, VA 23665

Telephone: Circulation Desk: (757) 764-2906; DSN: (88) 574-2906

Hours: Monday - Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Friday - Sunday noon to 5:00 p.m.;
Holidays Closed

SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS:

Week 1: (May 29) Introduction to Course and Philosophy of Science

Week 2: (June 5) Selecting a Topic and Reviewing Literature

DL 1: Paper Topic (Due June 8th) – Students will identify a topic of interest research on the discussion board, a link or reference to an article on the topic, and explain why they are interested in it. They will then comment on 4 other students' topics.

Week 3: (June 12) Quantitative Methods

Week 4: (June 16) Quantitative Methods and Research Design

DL 2: Statement of the Topic (Due June 22nd) – Student will prepare a statement of topic and literature review and post it on the discussion board. They will also comment on 2 other students' posts.

Week 5: (June 26) Review of DLs

DL 3: Paper Analysis (Due June 29)- Students will analyze an Assigned Research Paper and post their analysis on the Discussion Board

Week 6: No Class July 3rd

DL 4: Research Design (Due July 8th): Students will post a Research Design on the Discussion Board and comment on two other students' designs

Week 7: (July 10) Qualitative Methods

Week 8: (July 17) Writing a Research Paper

Week 9: (July 24) Present Research Findings

Final Paper- Students will post their final paper on the Discussion Board NLT **July 27th**