
POLITICAL ANALYSIS in Fall 2018 (PO2050)

Course Code	PO2050	Professor(s)	Peter Walkenhorst
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	n/a
Class Schedule	TF: 10:35-11:55 in C-103	Office Hours	By appointment
Credits	4	Email	pwalkenhorst@aup.edu
Semester	Fall 2018	Office Tel. Ext.	n/a

Course Description

This course introduces students to research methods and design in political science. It covers the elementary principles of the scientific method, outlines different approaches to social science research, and presents alternative data-gathering techniques, such as surveys, experiments, content analysis, or field research. Students elaborate a particular research design based on a local, national, or global challenge of their choice.

Course Learning Outcomes

to comprehend the basic building blocks of political science research (research design, the measurement of variables, sampling, data processing, and data analysis)
to demonstrate knowledge of the major types of social research methods (experimentation, survey research, content analysis, and field research)
to prepare a research proposal, using scientific citation style

General Education

Course Outline

CLASS SCHEDULE:

Session	Day	Date	Topic	Reading
1	Tue	11-Sep-18	Acquisition of social knowledge	Neuman, chapter 1, pp 1-16.
2	Fri	14-Sep-18	Varieties of research	Neuman, chapter 1, pp. 16-25.
3	Tue	18-Sep-18	Research types	Neuman, chapter 2, pp. 25-37
4	Fri	21-Sep-18	Data types	Neuman, chapter 2, pp. 37-53
5	Tue	25-Sep-18	Theory versus ideology	Neuman, chapter 3, pp. 55-71
6	Fri	28-Sep-18	Theory and causality	Neuman, chapter 3, pp. 72-89
7	Tue	02-Oct-18	Research methodology	Neuman, chapter 4, pp. 192-123
8	Fri	05-Oct-18	Literature review	Neuman, chapter 5, pp. 125-145
9	Tue	09-Oct-18	Literature search	Creswell, chapter 2, pp. 23-48
10	Fri	12-Oct-18	Ethical conduct	Neuman, chapter 5, pp. 145-162
11	Tue	16-Oct-18	Research design	Neuman, chapter 6, pp. 165-180
12	Fri	19-Oct-18	Hypothesis testing	Neuman, chapter 6, pp. 180-198
13	Tue	23-Oct-18	Measurement validity	Neuman, chapter 7, pp. 202-221
14	Fri	26-Oct-18	Levels of measurement	Neuman, chapter 7, pp. 221-241
15	Tue	30-Oct-18	Non-random sampling	Neuman, chapter 8, pp. 246-254
-	Fri	02-Nov-18	Fall break	-
16	Tue	06-Nov-18	Random sampling	Neuman, chapter 8, pp. 254-279
17	Fri	09-Nov-18	Social experiments	Neuman, chapter 9, pp. 281-312
18	Tue	13-Nov-18	Survey questions	Neuman, chapter 10, pp. 316-345
19	Fri	16-Nov-18	Survey administration	Neuman, chapter 10, pp. 345-361
20	Tue	20-Nov-18	Content analysis	Neuman, chapter 11, pp. 368-378
21	Fri	23-Nov-18	Secondary data	Neuman, chapter 11, pp. 378-390
22	Tue	27-Nov-18	Quantitative data analysis	Neuman, chapter 12, pp.

		18		393-428
23	Fri	30-Nov-	Regression analysis	Bhattacharjee, chapter 15, pp. 129-136
		18		
24	Tue	04-Dec-	Field research	Neuman, chapter 13, pp. 431-476
		18		
25	Fri	07-Dec-	Qualitative data analysis	Neuman, chapter 14, pp. 477-512
		18		
26	Tue	11-Dec-	Report writing	Neuman, chapter 15, pp. 513-546
		18		
27	Fri	21-Dec-	Final exam	
		18		

Textbooks

Title	Author	Publisher	ISBN	Required
Social Research Methods: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches	Neuman, W. Lawrence	Pearson	9781292020235	Yes

Attendance Policy

Students studying at The American University of Paris are expected to attend ALL scheduled classes, and in case of absence, should contact their professors to explain the situation. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that a faculty member might have set in the course syllabus. The French Department, for example, has its own attendance policy, and students are responsible for compliance. Academic Affairs will excuse an absence for students' participation in study trips related to their courses.

Attendance at all exams is mandatory.

IN ALL CASES OF MISSED COURSE MEETINGS, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROFESSOR, AND FOR ARRANGING TO MAKE UP MISSED WORK, RESTS SOLELY WITH THE STUDENT.

Whether an absence is excused or not is ALWAYS up to the discretion of the professor or the

department. Unexcused absences can result in a low or failing participation grade. In the case of excessive absences, it is up to the professor or the department to decide if the student will receive an “F” for the course. An instructor may recommend that a student withdraw, if absences have made it impossible to continue in the course at a satisfactory level.

Students must be mindful of this policy when making their travel arrangements, and especially during the Drop/Add and Exam Periods.

Grading Policy

Class participation:	25%
Research proposal:	25%
Three quizzes:	25%
Final exam:	25%

Other
