

INST 301: INTERNATIONAL STUDIES RESEARCH METHODS - ONLINE

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GENERAL INFORMATION

This course familiarizes students with relevant research methods and applications for the fields of International Studies. It introduces students to principle research methods and source types within the Liberal Arts, with an additional emphasis on interdisciplinary methods and applied research. Class content includes reading, written assignments, quizzes, discussions, presentations, activities, and hands-on experience with multiple types of research. This course aims to prepare students of International Studies to understand, appreciate, and conduct research in academic contexts as well as in a range of careers.

Objectives

By the end of this course, you should be able to...

- Identify social science research methods and sources
- Connect and integrate research methods from multiple disciplines
- Appreciate the value of an interdisciplinary lens
- Recognize research applications in academic and non-academic settings
- Demonstrate the research and composition process

Readings

Required texts:

1. Kate Turabian, *Manual for Writers of Research Papers*, 8th Edition (Chicago, 2013)
2. Patricia Leavy, *Research Design* (Guilford, 2017)

Additional readings will be made available online via Canvas.

Reading assignments should be completed by the date or topic under which they are listed. Students will be expected to engage assigned readings in class discussions and other class activities, including quizzes, essays, and assignments.

ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATIONS

Assignments

Group Poster Project

For this assignment, you and a partner will research a cross-cultural or international subject of your choice and present your findings in the form of a poster. This assignment includes multiple elements. See Canvas for details.

Fulbright Proposal Portfolio & Presentation

The Fulbright U.S. Student Program provides funding for recent graduates and graduate students to conduct research in a foreign country for 9-12 months. Using this grant opportunity as a model, you will prepare a mock proposal seeking funding for fieldwork in a qualifying foreign country on a subject of your choice. This project culminates in a portfolio with a personal statement and a statement of grant purpose. At the end of the semester, you will present your proposal in a recorded video presentation. See Canvas for details, guidelines, and resources.

Other Assignments

This course will include various assignments engaging assigned readings and requiring you to apply research methods explained in class. See Canvas for details, specific assignments, and deadlines.

Quizzes

There will be a quiz at the end of each unit testing your command of relevant concepts and material. Each quiz is worth 10 points (5% of your total grade). Quizzes are timed at 20-30 minutes and contain multiple

choice, short answer questions, or a combination. Quizzes are open book, meaning that you may use notes and course materials, but you are required to work independently. Any consultation with classmates or other sources constitutes a violation of Academic Integrity and will be dealt with accordingly. Your use of the [CSU Honor Pledge](#) represents your commitment to respect CSU's [Academic Integrity Policy](#).

Participation & Discussion

Your success in this class rests on regular and meaningful engagement with the material, your fellow students, and the instructor. In order to gain full participation credit, you must

1. Contribute to all of the discussion topics, and
2. Carefully read and follow the guidelines for each discussion topic. Note that instructions for discussion topics will vary.

You can earn up to two extra participation points per topic, by either posting or responding more than once. These points may compensate for credit missed in other units, or they may be translated into extra credit.

CLASS POLICIES

Etiquette

Please do your part to maintain and promote a respectful, mature learning environment. This includes being sensitive and respectful toward your fellow students, listening actively to other perspectives, and using appropriate language. Your enrollment in this class signals your agreement to follow CSU's Principles of Community. They are:

- Inclusion: We create and nurture inclusive environments and welcome, value and affirm all members of our community, including their various identities, skills, ideas, talents, and contributions.
- Integrity: We are accountable for our actions and will act ethically and honestly in all our interactions.
- Respect: We honor the inherent dignity of all people within an environment where we are committed to freedom of expression, critical discourse, and the advancement of knowledge.
- Service: We are responsible, individually and collectively, to give of our time, talents, and resources to promote the well-being of each other and the development of our local, regional, and global communities.
- Social Justice: We have the right to be treated and the responsibility to treat others with fairness and equity, the duty to challenge prejudice, and to uphold the laws, policies and procedures that promote justice in all respects.

Academic Integrity

It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with proper CMS citation methods, presented in Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers*, as well as with CSU's policy on Academic Integrity and the [CSU Honor Pledge](#), which can be found in the University's *General Catalog* (Section 1.6), available on the CSU website: <http://www.catalog.colostate.edu>. As outlined in this policy, students found responsible for acts of academic dishonesty such as cheating or plagiarism will receive a grade of zero (0) on the assignment or evaluation in question, and they may fail the course and face further disciplinary action. Note that it is possible to plagiarize unintentionally. The CSU Writing Center provides a list of helpful websites for understanding and avoiding plagiarism. See: <http://writing.colostate.edu/guides/teaching/plagiarism/students.cfm>. You may also contact me with questions or concerns about citing sources, plagiarism, or other issues related to academic integrity.

GRADING

Final grades will be determined as follows:

1. Poster Project: 20%
2. Fulbright Research Project: 20% total
3. Fulbright Research Video Presentation: 10%
4. Other Assignments: 15%
5. Quizzes: 20%
6. Participation: 15%

Grades will be assigned according to a plus / minus scale: (99%-100% = A+, 93%-98% = A, 90%-92% = A-, 87%-89% = B+, 83%-86% = B, 80%-82% = B-, 77%-79% = C+). Note that CSU does not assign a plus or minus for grades below C+.

CLASS SCHEDULE

may be subject to change

Part I: Research and Writing (June 11-17)

Topic 1 (June 11-12): Introduction to the Course

Lecture: Understanding and Appreciating Research

Reading:

1. Anderson et al., *International Studies: An Interdisciplinary Approach to International Issues*, Introduction
2. Turabian, pp. 131-132 (“On the Spirit of Research”)

Topic 2 (June 12-13): Research and Writing Contexts

Lecture: Research and Writing Contexts

Reading:

1. Patricia Leavy, *Research Design*, Chapter 1: Introduction to Social Research
2. Valerie Strauss, “The Surprising Thing Google Learned about Its Employees — and What It Means for Today’s Students,” *The Washington Post* (December 20, 2017)

Topic 3 (June 13-14): Research Topics and Questions

Guest Lecture: International Studies Careers

Reading:

1. Turabian, Chs. 1-3
2. Leavy, Ch. 3, pp. 54-69

Topic 4 (June 14-15): Research Hypothesis and Thesis

Lecture: Research Hypotheses and Theses

Reading:

1. Turabian, Chs. 4-5
2. Leavy, Ch. 3, pp. 69-83

Fake News Article due June 14

Poster Abstract due June 17

Part I Quiz available June 15-17

Part I Discussions close June 17

Part II: Introduction to Research (June 18-24)

Topic 1 (June 18-19): Quantitative Research

Lecture: Social Research Value and Applications

Reading:

1. Leavy, Ch. 4, pp. 87-93
2. Turabian, Ch. 8 (pp. 84-99)
3. Film: *Quinoa: The Mother Grain*. <http://www.cultureunplugged.com/documentary/watch-online/play/53380/The-Mother-Grain>

Topic 2 (June 19-20): Qualitative Research

Lecture: Introduction to Research Design

Reading:

1. Leavy, Ch. 5, pp. 133-159
2. Turabian, Ch. 13 (pp. 124-130)

Topic 3 (June 20-21): Interdisciplinary Research

Lecture: Presenting Research

Reading:

1. Patricia Leavy, “Chapter 1. Transdisciplinarity: Disciplinary to Transdisciplinary Knowledge-Building,” in *Essentials of Transdisciplinary Research* (Left Coast Press, 2011): 13-35.

2. Sabine Maasen, Martin Lengwiler, and Michael Guggenheim, "Practices of Transdisciplinary Research: Close(r) Encounters of Science and Society," *Science and Public Policy* 33, no. 6 (July 1, 2006): 394–98.

Topic 4 (June 21-22): Research and Scholarship

Reading:

1. Virginia Page Fortna, "Does Peacekeeping Keep Peace? International Intervention and the Duration of Peace After Civil War," *International Studies Quarterly* 48, no. 2 (June 1, 2004): 269–92, <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.0020-8833.2004.00301.x>.
2. Film: *What Exactly Do UN Peacekeepers Do?* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N37jHVVUilE>

Fulbright Research Proposal Annotated Bibliography due June 21

Poster due June 24

Part II Quiz available June 22-24

Part II Discussions close June 24

Part III: The Research Process (June 25-July 1)

Topic 1 (June 25-26): Poster Symposium

Topic 2 (June 26-27): Ethics in Social Research

Lecture: Use of Human Subjects

Reading:

1. Leavy, Ch. 2
2. Siddharth Kara, "Supply and Demand: Human Trafficking in the Global Economy," in *Harvard International Review*, Vol. 33, No. 2 (Summer 2011), pp. 66-71.

Topic 3 (June 27-28): Survey Research

Guest Lecture: Applying for the Fulbright Scholarship

Reading:

1. Leavy, Ch. 4, pp. 93-122
2. Read and review an article of your choice from the Journal *International Studies Quarterly*: <https://academic.oup.com/isq> (details on Canvas)

Topic 4 (June 28-29): Research Pitfalls

Guest Lecture: Fulbright Field Research

Reading:

1. Jordan Ellenberg, "How Much Is That in Dead Americans?" in *How Not to Be Wrong: The Power of Mathematical Thinking* (Penguin, 2014), pp. 62-76.
2. Film: *Simpson's Paradox*: <https://ed.ted.com/lessons/how-statistics-can-be-misleading-mark-liddell>

Poster Reflection due June 28

Scholarly Article Analysis due June 29

Fulbright Proposal Essay Draft due July 1

Part III Quiz available June 29-July 1

Part III Discussions close July 1

Part IV: Synthesizing and Presenting Research (July 2-8)

Topic 1 (July 2-3): Research Synthesis

Lecture: Course Wrap-up

Reading: Choose from the following:

1. Leavy, Ch. 6
2. Leavy, Ch. 7
3. Leavy, Ch. 8

INST 301 Online

Topic 2 (July 3-4): Fulbright Proposal Presentations

Peer Reviews of Thesis Proposal Drafts due July 4

Fulbright Proposal Video due July 5

Topic 3: Course Wrap-up (July 5-8)

Guest Lecture: International Careers Panel

Final Fulbright Proposal Portfolio due July 8

Final Quiz available July 6-8

Part IV Discussions close July 8