

# RESEARCH METHODS OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

## 1. MODULE SUMMARY

### Aims and Summary

The goal of this module is to introduce students to the scope and methods of research in political science and International Relations. Students will be introduced both to core principles of the philosophy of social science that underlay all research methods and to methods that are currently being used by students of International Politics.

### Module Size and credits

<b>CATS points</b>	10.0
<b>ECTS credits</b>	5.0
<b>Total student study hours</b>	100
<b>Number of weeks</b>	12
<b>School responsible</b>	Łazarski University, Faculty of Economics and Management
<b>Academic Year</b>	2022-2023

### Entry Requirements (pre-requisites and co-requisites)

None

### Excluded Combinations

None

### Composition of module mark (including weighting of components)

Coursework 100%: composed of Prospectus (40%), Bibliography and Literature Review (40%) and Topic Essay (20%);

### Pass requirements

To pass the course a student must score at least 40% of the overall weighted average and not less than 35% for each assessment component (i.e. final exam and coursework). Re-assessment: coursework component(s) and/or examination as appropriate.

### Special Features

None

### Course stages for which this module is mandatory

MA in International Relations Year 2 (level 7)

### Course stages for which this module is a core option

None

## 2. TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

### Intended Module Learning Outcomes

The intended learning outcomes are that on completion of this module, the student should be able to:

1. Apply methods in the study of International Relations;
2. Compare and contrast different methods and decide on the most effective for the type of project proposed;
3. Design a research project;

4. Present findings to a variety of audiences.

#### **Indicative Content**

- What is Political Studies and International Relations—Politics vs. Political Studies
- IR and the varieties of IR interests—Thesis writing and what it is about
- Core principles of the philosophy of social science.
- Thoughts about Thesis Writing and How to Do it.
- The Historical and Political Dimension.
- The Human Actor—the setting and action of politics
- Politics as Authority, Decision and Attitudes
- Case Study Methods/Quantitative Methods/Statistics and their Limits/Formal Methods
- Group Choice/Cooperation, Collective Action and Public Good/Institutions.

#### **Teaching and Learning**

This module will be taught by means of lectures and self-directed study.

Formative Assessment: Comments will be given on assessments, and tutorial guidance will be provided for coursework and exam.

Student activity and time spent on each activity comprises:

<b>Guided</b>	0 hours	(0%)
<b>Lecture</b>	0 hours	(0%)
<b>Self-guided</b>	70 hours	(70%)
<b>Seminar</b>	30 hours	(30%)
<b>Workshop</b>	0 hours	(0%)
<b>Total</b>	100 hours	

#### **Method of Assessment (normally assessed as follows)**

##### **The intended learning outcomes will be assessed as follows:**

- A Prospectus (40% - 2 Credits): outline, plan of a proposed research project contributes to learning outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4
- Bibliography and literature review (40% - 2 Credits): contributes to learning outcomes 3, 4
- Topic essay (20% - 1 Credits): 2000 words; contributes to learning outcomes 1, 2

#### **Re-sit**

Students failing any component of assessment, at the first attempt, are entitled to one re-sit attempt. This will be by new examination and/or new coursework scheduled for the next assessment opportunity. For coursework, if more than one element existed in the first attempt, this may be combined into one assessment for re-sit.

#### **Date of last amendment**

17-08-2014

### **3. MODULE RESOURCES**

#### **Essential Reading**

Elster, J., 1989. *Explaining Social Behavior*. Paper. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

van Evera, S., 1997. *Guide to Methods for Science of Political Science*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University

#### **Recommended Reading**

Booth, W.C., Colomb, G., Williams, J., 2008. *The Craft of Research*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

de Jouvenal, B., 1963. *The Pure Theory of Politics*. Liberty Fund.

Huff, D., 1954. *How to Lie with Statistics*. New York: Norton.

Roselle, L., Spray, S., 2008. *Research and Writing in International Relations*. London: Longman.

Scott, G., Garrison, S., 2011. *The Political Science Student Writer's Manual*. 7<sup>th</sup> ed. New Jersey: Prentice Hall.

Shepsle, K., Bonehek, M., 2010. *Analyzing Politics: Rationality, Behavior and Institutions*. New York: Norton.

Sprinz, D.F., Wolinsky-Nahmias, Y., 2004. *Models, Numbers, and Cases: Methods for Studying International Relations*. University Michigan.

#### **Required Equipment**

None

#### **4. MODULE ORGANISATION**

##### **Module leader**

**Name** Dr Christopher Lash

**E-mail** [christopherglash@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:christopherglash@yahoo.co.uk)

##### **Length and month of examination**

N/A

##### **Expected teaching timetable slots**

Note that some tutorials/seminars may be provided at times other than those shown below. Timetable information should be verified with the School responsible for the module

No timetable information available

##### **Subject Quality and Approval information**

**Board of Study** Faculty Collaborative Provision Committee

**Subject Assessment Board** Faculty Council, Faculty of Economics and Management

##### **Shortened title**

**Date of approval by FCPC** 28 February 2018