
POLITICAL ANALYSIS in Spring 2021 (PO2050)

Course Code	PO2050	Professor(s)	Peter Walkenhorst
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	n/a
Class Schedule	F: 12:10-13:30 in C-103 T: 12:10-13:30 in C-103	Office Hours	By appointment
Credits	4	Email	pwalkenhorst@aup.edu
Semester	Spring 2021	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

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

General Education

Course Outline

Session	Day	Date	Topic
1	Tue	19-Jan-21	Acquisition of soci

2	Fri	22-Jan-21	knowledge	Varieties of research
3	Tue	26-Jan-21	Research types	
4	Fri	29-Jan-21	Data types	
5	Tue	02-Feb-21	Theory versus ide	
6	Fri	05-Feb-21	Theory and causa	
-	Tue	09-Feb-21	Mini break	
7	Fri	12-Feb-21	Research method	
8	Tue	16-Feb-21	Literature review	
9	Fri	19-Feb-21	Literature search	
10	Tue	23-Feb-21	Ethical conduct	
-	Fri	26-Feb-21	Mini break	
11	Tue	02-Mar-21	Research design	
12	Fri	05-Mar-21	Hypothesis testing	
13	Tue	09-Mar-21	Measurement vali	
14	Fri	12-Mar-21	Levels of measure	
15	Tue	16-Mar-21	Non-random samp	
16	Fri	19-Mar-21	Random sampling	
17	Tue	23-Mar-21	Social experiment	
18	Fri	26-Mar-21	Survey questions	
19	Tue	30-Mar-21	Survey administra	
20	Fri	02-Apr-21	Content analysis	
-	Tue	06-Apr-21	No class	
21	Fri	09-Apr-21	Secondary data	
22	Tue	13-Apr-21	Quantitative data	

23	Fri	16-Apr-21	Regression analysis
24	Tue	20-Apr-21	Field research
25	Fri	23-Apr-21	Qualitative data analysis
26	Tue	27-Apr-21	Report writing

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 & presentation:	25%
Research proposal:	25%
Three quizzes:	25%
Final exam:	25%

Other
