



# Course program and reading list

Semester 1 Year 2024

**School:** Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy & Strategy B.A

## Research Methods

### Lecturer:

Dr. Niva Golan-Nadir [niva.golan@post.runi.ac.il](mailto:niva.golan@post.runi.ac.il)

### Teaching Assistant:

Mr. Max Dunbar [maxwallace.dunbar@post.runi.ac.il](mailto:maxwallace.dunbar@post.runi.ac.il)

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Course No.:	Course Type :	Weekly Hours :	Credit:
3105	Lecture	3	3

Course Requirements :	Group Code :	Language:
Final Paper	242310500	English

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### Course Description

This course offers an opportunity for undergraduate students to review and experience the practice of both quantitative and qualitative research methodologies in the social sciences. During the semester we will address the nature of the quantitative and qualitative research methodologies in the context of political science, with plentiful opportunities to discuss the implications of the choices made by various studies in designing, implementing and reporting on the findings.

Practically, the course intends to encourage students to develop skills to collect and analyze both quantitative and qualitative data, and consequently design a methodologically-solid research study.

The course combines frontal learning with a practical application that will allow the students a hands-on experience in applying the material taught.

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## Course Goals

The aim of the course is to provide the students with basic knowledge of research methodology and the quality criteria employed to review research, based on both quantitative and qualitative tools.

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## Grading

**2 Midterm papers** (in couples)

**Final paper** (Individual) – **100%** of final grade

!A passing grade (**60**) in final paper is mandatory in order to pass the course!

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## Learning Outcomes

Basic knowledge in both Quantitative and Qualitative methodologies in the Social Sciences.

A clear sense on how to construct a research design, pose a research question and hypothesis, and compose a literature review for future courses.

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## Lecturer Office Hours

By appointment - schedule via e-mail

Niva.Golan@post.idc.ac.il

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## Tutor Office Hours

By appointment.

dunbarmaxta@gmail.com

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## Teaching Assistant

Mr. MaxWallace Dunbar

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 Additional Notes

**For administrative concerns (attendance, dates, website)** – Contact Mr. MaxWallace Dunbar at [dunbarmaxta@gmail.com](mailto:dunbarmaxta@gmail.com)

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 Reading List

### **Week 1 - Introduction to Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods: Characteristics and Limitations**

Harrison, L. (2013). Political research: an introduction. Routledge, ch. 1.

Goertz, G., & Mahoney, J. (2012). A tale of two cultures: Qualitative and quantitative research in the social sciences. Princeton University Press, pp. 1-16.

Choy, L. T. (2014). The strengths and weaknesses of research methodology: Comparison and complimentary between qualitative and quantitative approaches. IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Science, 19(4), 99-104.

*Recommended reading:*

Lin, A. C. (1998). Bridging positivist and interpretivist approaches to qualitative methods. Policy Studies Journal, 26(1), 162-180.

### **Week 2 – Quantitative Data Collection: Existing Statistics and Official Statistics as Tools in Political Research and the Question of Reliable Data**

Harrison, L. (2013). Political research: an introduction. Routledge, ch. 2, 4.

Jensenius, F. R. (2014). The fieldwork of quantitative data collection, PS, pp. 402-404.

Levitas, R., & Guy, W. (Eds.). (1996). Interpreting official statistics. Psychology Press, introduction, pp. 1-6.

*Recommended reading:*

Chow, G. (2006). Are Chinese official statistics reliable?. CESifo Economic Studies, 52(2), 396-414.

### **Week 3 – Quantitative Data Collection: Survey Research and the Study of Public Opinion as Tools in Political Research**

Harrison, L. (2013). Political research: an introduction. Routledge, ch. 3.

Groves, R. M. (2011). Three eras of survey research. Public Opinion Quarterly, 75(5), 861-871.

Cobanoglu, C., Warde, B., & Moreo, P. J. (2001). A comparison of mail, fax, and web survey

methods. *International Journal of Market Research*, 43, 441-452.

*Recommended reading:*

Cobanoglu, C., Warde, B., & Moreo, P. J. (2001). A comparison of mail, fax, and web survey methods. *International Journal of Market Research*, 43, 441-452.

Sills, S. J., & Song, C. (2002). Innovations in survey research: An application of web surveys. *Social Science Computer Review*, 20, 22-30

**Week 4 – Quantitative Data Analysis: Statistical Measurements and Descriptive Statistics**

Botti, M., & Endacott, R. (2005). Clinical research 5: Quantitative data collection and analysis. *Intensive and Critical Care Nursing*, 21(3), 187-193.

Fisher, M. J., & Marshall, A. P. (2009). Understanding descriptive statistics. *Australian Critical Care*, 22(2), 93-97.

Hancock, G. R., Stapleton, L. M., & Mueller, R. O. (Eds.). (2018). The reviewer's guide to quantitative methods in the social sciences. Routledge, pp. 1-13.

**Week 5 – Qualitative Data Collection: The Classic Participant Observation and the Interview as Tools in Political Research**

Berg, B. L. (2009). *Qualitative Research Methods for the Social Science*. Boston: Ally & Bacon, pp. 190-245.

Clark, A., Holland, C., Katz, J., & Peace, S. (2009). Learning to see: lessons from a participatory observation research project in public spaces. *International Journal of Social Research Methodology*, 12(4), 345-360.

Robinson, O. C. (2014). Sampling in interview-based qualitative research: A theoretical and practical guide. *Qualitative Research in Psychology*, 11(1), 25-41.

*Recommended reading:*

Fontana, A., & Prokos, A. H. (2007). The interview: From formal to postmodern. Left coast press, ch. 1-2, 4, 6.

**Week 6 – Qualitative Data Collection: Focus Groups and Documentation as Tools in Political Research**

Krueger, R. A. (1998). Developing questions for focus groups (Vol. 3). Sage Publications, pp. 19-51.

Flick, U. (2018). *An introduction to qualitative research*. Sage Publications Limited, ch. 5.

Bowen, G. A. (2009). Document analysis as a qualitative research method. *Qualitative research journal*, 9(2), 27-40.

*Recommended reading:*

Altheide, D. L., & Schneider, C. J. (2012). Qualitative media analysis (Vol. 38). Sage Publications, ch. 4.

Colucci, E. (2007). "Focus groups can be fun": The use of activity-oriented questions in focus group discussions. *Qualitative Health Research*, 17(10), 1422-1433.

**Week 7 – Qualitative Data Analysis Tools**

Leech, N. L., & Onwuegbuzie, A. J. (2007). An array of qualitative data analysis tools: A call for data analysis triangulation. *School Psychology Quarterly*, 22(4), 557.

Simons, L., Lathlean, J., & Squire, C. (2008). Shifting the focus: sequential methods of analysis with qualitative data. *Qualitative Health Research*, 18(1), 120-132.

**Week 8 – Review class & In-Class exercise!**

**Week 9 – Designing the Quantitative/Qualitative Research: Case selection, Hypotheses and Generalization**

Goertz, G., & Mahoney, J. (2012). A tale of two cultures: Qualitative and quantitative research in the social sciences. Princeton University Press, pp. 177-219.

Seawright, J., & Gerring, J. (2008). Case selection techniques in case study research: A menu of qualitative and quantitative options. *Political Research Quarterly*, 61(2), 294-308.

Polit, D. F., & Beck, C. T. (2010). Generalization in quantitative and qualitative research: Myths and strategies. *International Journal of Nursing Studies*, 47(11), 1451-1458.

Payne, G., & Williams, M. (2005). Generalization in qualitative research. *Sociology*, 39(2), 295-314.

**Week 10 – Quality, Morality, Ethics and Anonymity in Quantitative and Qualitative Research**

Zyphur, M. J., & Pierides, D. C. (2017). Is quantitative research ethical? Tools for ethically practicing, evaluating, and using quantitative research. *Journal of Business Ethics*, 143(1), 1-16.

Tracy, S. J. (2010). Qualitative quality: Eight "big-tent" criteria for excellent qualitative research. *Qualitative inquiry*, 16(10), 837-851.

Wiles, R. (2012). What are qualitative research ethics?. London: A&C Black., ch. 3-4.

*Recommended reading:*

Parry, O., & Mauthner, N. S. (2004). Whose data are they anyway? Practical, legal and

ethical issues in archiving qualitative research data. *sociology*, 38(1), 139-152.

### **Week 11 – The Art of Mixed Method Research Designs**

Creswell, J. W., & Clark, V. L. P. (2017). *Designing and conducting mixed methods research*. Sage publications, ch. 1, ch. 3.

Creswell, J. W., Fetters, M. D., & Ivankova, N. V. (2004). Designing a mixed methods study in primary care. *The Annals of Family Medicine*, 2(1), 7-12.

Golan-Nadir, N. (2016) "Marriage Regulation in Israel and Turkey: the interplay between institutional dynamics and public preferences", in: *The Jarring Road to Democratic Inclusion: A Comparative Assessment of State–Society Engagements in Israel and Turkey*, Aviad Rubin and Yusuf Sarfati (eds.), New York: Lexington Books, Ch. 8.

### **Week 12 – Summary: Traditional Methodology vs. Big Data: The Relevance of Qualitative Research Today**

Monroe, B. L., Pan, J., Roberts, M. E., Sen, M., & Sinclair, B. (2015). No! Formal theory, causal inference, and big data are not contradictory trends in political science. *PS, Political Science & Politics*, 48(1), 71.

Daas, P. J., Puts, M. J., Buelens, B., & van den Hurk, P. A. (2015). Big data as a source for official statistics. *Journal of Official Statistics*, 31(2), 249-262.