



<b>Course</b>	<b>COURSE NUMBER: INTL 5100 Research Methods and Perspectives</b> <b>SITE:</b> Camp Lejeune, NC												
<b>Term</b>	Fall 2, 2007												
<b>Instructor</b>	Name: Mr. Russ Smith Phone: O (910) 451-8825 / C (910) 340- 6881 Email: <a href="mailto:glensmith15@webster.edu">glensmith15@webster.edu</a>												
<b>Course Description</b>	Students are introduced to skills, methodological issues, and bibliographic resources, which enhance their ability to evaluate critically and to conduct research in the field of international relations.												
<b>Prerequisites</b>	None												
<b>Course Level Learning Outcomes</b>	Upon completion of this course, students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The nature of political inquiry</li><li>2. The process of scientific political inquiry</li><li>3. Methods of data generation</li><li>4. The use of statistical analysis in political inquiry</li><li>5. Historical and present day international issues that have undergone varied research and the conclusions that have been drawn</li></ol>												
<b>Course Materials</b>	Le Roy, Michael K. and Corbett, Michael. <b>Research Methods in Political Science: An Introduction Using MicroCase®</b> . 6th Edition, Thomson Wadsworth. (2006). ISBN: 0-534-60235-5. Roberts, James C. and Rosenblatt, Alan J. <b>International Relations: Using MicroCase® ExplorIt</b> . Wadsworth. (2002). ISBN: 0-534-57385-1.  Obtain textbooks by calling MBS Direct at 1-800-325-3252, by fax 1-800-499-0143, or at <a href="http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/webster.htm">http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/webster.htm</a> .  MBS Direct accepts credit card charge, money order or personal check, and mails the textbook directly to your physical address. (No P.O. Boxes.)												
<b>Course Grading</b>	Final grades will be based on the final examination, worksheets, Web Expedition activities, weekly quizzes, and weekly in-class article readings and activities, weighted as follows: <table border="1" data-bbox="631 1629 1252 1858"><tr><td>Research Methods Worksheets</td><td>15%</td></tr><tr><td>IR Worksheets (12)</td><td>15%</td></tr><tr><td>Research Methods Web Expeditions</td><td>20%</td></tr><tr><td>IR Quizzes</td><td>20%</td></tr><tr><td>Weekly reading and analysis</td><td>10%</td></tr><tr><td>Final exam</td><td>20%</td></tr></table>	Research Methods Worksheets	15%	IR Worksheets (12)	15%	Research Methods Web Expeditions	20%	IR Quizzes	20%	Weekly reading and analysis	10%	Final exam	20%
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The following table shows the grade associated with each of the different ranges of total possible weighted points:

A	100 - 95 %
A-	94 - 90 %
B+	89 - 87 %
B	86 - 84 %
B-	83 - 80 %
C	79 - 75 %
F	Below 75 %

The terms for Written and Oral work are explained in the Evaluation of Written and Oral Work located in the Student Handbook, which is online from [www.Webster.edu](http://www.Webster.edu).

**Activities**

**Learning Objectives**

The objectives of the course are as follows:

- a. To familiarize the student with the nature of political inquiry as it fits within the broader scope of epistemology
- b. To demonstrate the process of scientific political inquiry in its many facets as it is portrayed in hypothesis testing
- c. To familiarize students with several methods of data generation
- d. To familiarize the students with the utility of statistical analysis as it pertains to and assists in political inquiry, and
- e. To survey the best known and most widely used techniques of statistical analysis to the end that students will be able to read usefully (and without fear) the current literature of empirical international politics.

It should be stressed that this is a course in methodology and not a course in statistics. Although statistics can be a useful tool, the mathematical manipulators will be downplayed. Students will learn real world political science research methods, techniques, and perspectives.

- Each session, students are expected to study the weekly assignments, complete the pertinent worksheets, and web expeditions.
- Class will commence with a brief reading (provided by the instructor) on a timely topic and discussion about the content and methods of research involved in the composition of the piece. A summary of the discussion might be required; this may, from time to time, also require collaboration with classmates in small group work.
- Students should be prepared to discuss and debate the weekly topics.
- There will be a quiz on each week’s international relations material as well.

	<p><b>Evaluation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Main graded assignments will include weekly worksheets from each book, weekly web expeditions, a weekly quiz, and a final exam.</li> <li>• Final examination will be in a short essay format, with 100 words minimum per answer, covering five questions within 2 hours. Questions will be based upon all topics covered in readings, assignments, and class discussion. Test questions will presume that students can draw upon their knowledge of the entire semester for the final exam.</li> </ul> <p><b>Weekly Worksheets</b></p> <p>Students are required to complete worksheets assigned for each class and turn them in at the beginning of the session. For the written sections, the preferred method is typewritten; if by hand, the penmanship must be legible. No credit will be awarded for unintelligible or illegible responses.</p> <p>This course is computer and internet-reliant. Students must have access to a computer and the internet in order to do the assignments. If a student does not have access to a personal computer or the internet, arrangements must be made to use a machine connected to the Web, with the requisite software loaded. See the instructor if there are problems or concerns.</p> <p><b>Weekly Research Methods Web Expeditions</b></p> <p>During the course, a variety of Web Expeditions will be utilized to familiarize the student with the topic at hand, including available resources on the net. Each expedition includes a quiz. Students will answer each quiz, and e-mail it to the instructor prior to the start of the session for which they are assigned. The student will also print a copy and bring it to the session.</p> <p><b>Weekly IR Quizzes</b></p> <p>Each week, a quiz will determine student mastery of the IR topic at hand. The quizzes will cover the topics addressed in the readings and the workbook.</p>
<p><b>Policy Statements: University Policies</b></p>	<p>University policies are provided in the current course catalog and course schedules. They are also available on the university website. This class is governed by the university's published policies. The following policies are of particular interest:</p> <p><b>Academic Honesty</b></p> <p>The university is committed to high standards of academic honesty. Students will be held responsible for violations of these standards. Please refer to the university's academic honesty policies for a definition of academic dishonesty and potential disciplinary actions associated with it.</p> <p><b>Drops and Withdrawals</b></p> <p>Please be aware that, should you choose to drop or withdraw from this course, the date on which you notify the university of your decision will determine the amount of tuition refund you receive. Please refer to the</p>

	<p>university policies on drops and withdrawals (published elsewhere) to find out what the deadlines are for dropping a course with a full refund and for withdrawing from a course with a partial refund.</p> <p><b>Special Services</b> If you have registered as a student with a documented disability and are entitled to classroom or testing accommodations, please inform the instructor at the beginning of the course of the accommodations you will require in this class so that these can be provided.</p> <p><b>Disturbances</b> Since every student is entitled to full participation in class without interruption, disruption of class by inconsiderate behavior is not acceptable. Students are expected to treat the instructor and other students with dignity and respect, especially in cases where a diversity of opinion arises. Students who engage in disruptive behavior are subject to disciplinary action, including removal from the course.</p> <p><b>Student Assignments Retained</b> From time to time, student assignments or projects will be retained by The Department for the purpose of academic assessment. In every case, should the assignment or project be shared outside the academic Department, the student's name and all identifying information about that student will be redacted from the assignment or project.</p>
<b>Course Policies</b>	<p>All papers will be in accordance with guidelines found in the <i>Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association</i>, latest edition and the Webster APA Guidelines.</p> <p><b>Turnitin.com</b> Students are strongly encouraged to make use of this program's capabilities to help them prevent unintentional plagiarism. The information required to access the program will be forwarded to students by the instructor.</p> <p><b>Passports</b> Students should make full use of the Webster Library's Passport capabilities to perform literature searches. It is important to cite information from reputable sources. Question the validity of information and only cite subject experts, professional journals, government agencies, or similar acceptable sources.</p> <p><b>Class Attendance: The following Webster University Graduate School policy is in effect for this course:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All classes <b>will meet</b> the entire period a course is scheduled to meet <b>4 hours per night (day) for 9 weeks</b>, or as otherwise scheduled with approval by the Director.</li> <li>• The <b>student should</b> notify the instructor prior to class if an absence is</li> </ul>

	<p>anticipated and should <b>not miss more than 4 contact hours</b>. Makeup work <u>will be</u> assigned and, if the absence is unexcused, the work may exceed the material presented in class.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Persistent lateness or leaving class early could result in grade point reduction.</li> <li>• For absences of 8 hours, (other than documented, pre-approved absences), the instructor can opt to lower the students grade significantly if all make up work is not completed in a timely fashion. The Instructor should fail the student if the assigned makeup work has <b>not</b> been completed upon return of absences, or the student fails to notify the instructor prior to the absences.</li> <li>• If a student is absent 12 hours or more, the instructor <b>will assign</b> the grade of “F”. It is the student’s responsibility to withdraw from the course.</li> <li>• For pre-approved excused absences (<i>in an extreme case</i>) when the instructor chooses to award a grade of I (Incomplete) for 6 to 12 hours missed, the student must provide acceptable documentation to verify that the absences were unavoidable (e.g. illness, military TAD, etc.). These actions will be coordinated with the Director. Students will only be allowed 30 days from date of last scheduled class to complete all outstanding tests and assignments.</li> <li>• In all cases, the student needs to withdraw from the regular course if he/she has more than 16 hours of credit absences. Students who fail to comply with this policy should realize they become responsible for the full tuition rate, will then receive the grade of “F” for the course and will have to retake the course in its entirety.</li> </ul>
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<b>Weekly Schedule</b>	(May be changed at the instructor’s discretion upon Director’s approval)	
	<b>Week 1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Course Introduction and Overview</li> <li>• Daily reading and discussion (in-class activity each evening)</li> <li>• Le Roy: Chapter 1, Worksheet and Web Expedition</li> <li>• Roberts: Chapters 1 and 2, Worksheets and Quizzes</li> </ul> <p>Objectives addressed: <b>a-e</b></p>
	<b>Week 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daily reading and discussion</li> <li>• Le Roy: Ch. 2 – 4, Worksheets and Web Expeditions</li> <li>• Roberts: Ch. 3 and 4, Worksheets and Quizzes</li> </ul> <p>Objectives addressed: <b>a-e</b></p>

	<b>Week 3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daily reading and discussion</li> <li>• Le Roy: Ch. 5 and 6, Worksheets and Web Expeditions</li> <li>• Roberts: Ch. 5 and 6, Worksheets and Quizzes</li> </ul> <p>Objectives addressed: <b>a-e</b></p>
	<b>Week 4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daily reading and discussion</li> <li>• Le Roy: Ch. 7 and 8, Worksheets and Web Expeditions</li> <li>• Roberts: Ch. 7 and 8, Worksheets and Quizzes</li> </ul> <p>Objectives addressed: <b>a-e</b></p>
	<b>Week 5</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daily reading and discussion</li> <li>• Le Roy: Ch. 9 – 10, Worksheets and Web Expeditions</li> <li>• Roberts: Ch. 9 and 10, Worksheets and Quizzes</li> </ul> <p>Objectives addressed: <b>a-e</b></p>
	<b>Week 6</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daily reading and discussion</li> <li>• Le Roy: Ch. 11 – 12, Worksheets and Web Expeditions</li> <li>• Roberts: Ch. 11 and 12, Worksheets and Quizzes</li> </ul> <p>Objectives addressed: <b>a-e</b></p>
	<b>Week 7</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daily reading and discussion</li> <li>• Le Roy: Ch. 13, Worksheet and Web Expedition</li> <li>• Roberts: Review</li> </ul> <p>Objectives addressed: <b>a-e</b></p>
	<b>Week 8</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daily reading and discussion</li> <li>• Le Roy: Ch. 14, Worksheet and Web Expedition</li> <li>• Le Roy and Course Review</li> </ul> <p>Objectives addressed: <b>a-e</b></p>
	<b>Week 9</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Final Exam</b></li> <li>• Course wrap up</li> </ul> <p>Objectives addressed: <b>a-e</b></p>

Reviewed by: Cynthia A. Rose

Approved date: 8/17/07