Identification	**Subject (code, title, credits)**	**PSIR400 - Research Methods in Political Science** 3 Khazar credits 15 Weeks, 60 hours
	Department	Political Science and Philosophy
	Program (undergraduate, graduate)	Undergraduate
	Term	Fall 2026
	Instructor	Kamran Shirinzade
	E-mail:	kamran.shirin-zada@khazar.org shirinzadekamran@yandex.ru
	Phone:	+994 070 393 70 40
	Classroom/hours	41 Mehseti str. (Neftchilar campus)
	Office hours	By appointment
Prerequisites	None	
Language	English	
Compulsory/Elective	Required	
Required textbooks and course materials	***Core textbooks:*** Mcnabb, D.E. (2016) *Research methods for political science: quantitative and qualitative approaches.* London And New York: Routledge, Taylor Et Francis Group. David Levine, Kathryn Szabat, David Stephan. *Business Statistics, 8th edition.* Pearson, 2023. ***Supplementary textbook:*** (2005) Political Science Research Methods. 5 th edition, Wadsworth	
Course outline	This course is designed for undergraduate students. It will introduce students to basic concepts, methods and techniques of scientific research. The course starts with introduction of basic knowledge on science and empirical research, which will help students to familiarize themselves about the cornerstones of empirical research, such as hypothesis, variables and concepts. In this part, students will also learn about the methods of specifying research question and building theory in political science research. Further, students will be presented to core research concepts including research design, measurement of hypothesis, qualitative and quantitative methods, data collection and analysis methods, etc. In general, the course is composed of three modules: 1) scientific research and its building blocks; 2) modes of date gathering (content analysis, elite interviewing, survey research, observation); 3) Analysis of collected data	
Course objectives	Students will gain experience using and understanding the basic foundations of all quantitative and particularly qualitative social science. This experience will allow them to conduct their own projects, progress to more advanced courses on regression and causal inference, and evaluate published work. •To introduce student to empirical research in political science.	

<table>
<tr><td></td><td colspan="3">• To present students the various methodologies of empirical research applied by contemporary political scientists.

• Introduce basic software programs designed to analyze collected data.

• Help students to obtain necessary knowledge and capacity to understand and examine empirical researches.

• Help students to make empirical causal inferences between the proposed variables.

• Help students to acquire necessary capacity to build theoretical and operational definition of proposed concepts.

• Give students necessary knowledge to prepare their own research and present findings to peers.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Learning outcomes</td><td colspan="3">At the end of the semester, students who successfully completed the course are expected to:

a) Provide examples of how quantitative data may be used to help answer social science research questions.
b) Compare and contrast the goals of description, causation, prediction, and discovery in social science research.
c) Use the programming language R to import and explore social science data and conduct basic statistical analyses.
d) Interpret and describe visual displays of social science data, such as graphs and maps.
e) Develop their own analyses and visualizations to understand social science phenomena.
f) Have a profound understanding of research process (basic principles and procedures of research methodology)</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="7">Teaching methods</td><td colspan="2">Lecture</td><td>X</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Group discussion</td><td>X</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Experiential exercise</td><td>X</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Case analysis</td><td>X</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Simulation</td><td>X</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Course paper</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Others (internet resources, Handouts and supplementary materials)</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="7">Evaluation</td><td>Methods</td><td>Date/deadlines</td><td>Percentage (%)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Midterm Exam</td><td>8th week</td><td>30</td></tr>
<tr><td>Class attendance</td><td>During the semester</td><td>5</td></tr>
<tr><td>Active participation</td><td>During the semester</td><td>10</td></tr>
<tr><td>Assignments</td><td>24.09.2026-19.12.2026</td><td>20</td></tr>
<tr><td>Final Exam</td><td>At the end of the course</td><td>35</td></tr>
<tr><td>Total</td><td></td><td>100</td></tr>
<tr><td>Policy</td><td colspan="3"><u>Assignments</u>: Two assignments will be held throughout the semester. One</td></tr>
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	before midterm, second after the midterm exam. The assignment questions, tasks will be prepared based on the materials taught during the previous lectures. The idea behind the assignments is to make sure that students have successfully grasped the main points covered in the materials. The goal of assignments set is to help you learn the material and enable you to perform well on the exams. These are an opportunity for students to apply data science concepts and programming skills to social science applications. **Active participation:** Students are expected to attend each class meeting and be an active participant. Active participation involves engaging in class discussion, as well as participating in interactive class exercises. **Midterm:** Exam will include the topics covered till the exam date. On the exam date the class will not be held. **Final:** Final exam will be comprehensive in nature and will be held at the end of semester. All exams will be in written and subject to time change. ***Make-up Exam Policy:*** There are no previously scheduled make-up exams. Students missing both midterm and final exam will automatically be failed, even though they possess a valid excuse. Students missing either midterm or final exam and possess a valid excuse meeting University set standards will be required to take another exam where the questions will completely be different. Same applies for the quizzes. I strongly recommend students to take the exams on scheduled time. **Class attendance:** Students are required to comply with the attendance policy of Khazar University. Full-time students are expected to attend all classes unless they are sick or have the permission of the instructor (*approved absence*). A student must submit an absence request in anticipation of an absence from the course. In case he/she fails to do so, his absence will be considered unapproved. Specifically, to be eligible for taking exams, students must not miss more than 25% of class hours (*unapproved absences*). Otherwise, the student can take the exam only with the approval of the School Dean. Continuing unapproved absences or lack of participation may lead to withdrawal from the course. **Academic misconduct** Academic honesty plays an essential part in maintaining the integrity of Khazar University. Students are expected to recognize and uphold high standards of intellectual and academic integrity. The following acts are examples of academic dishonesty, therefore are strictly forbidden and will, if proven, be penalized: - plagiarism, - cheating, - unauthorized collaboration, - falsification,

- multiple submissions.

On plagiarism:
Plagiarism is unethical and an offence under the University regulations. Please familiarize yourself with the regulations relating to plagiarism and cheating in examinations.
Plagiarism is copying other people's work without proper attribution. The students committing plagiarism and the students providing materials for plagiarizing will automatically receive a zero (0) for the assignment. Students must always indicate that they used someone else's words and ideas if they have done so, by using quotation marks and mentioning the source in the text or a footnote. A bibliography must also follow after the end of your essays.

Rules of Professional Conduct
The students shall behave in the way to create favorable academic and professional environment during the class hours. Unauthorized discussions and unethical behavior are strictly prohibited. Classroom behavior that seriously interferes with either (a) the instructor's ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to benefit from the course program will not be tolerated. When a student's behavior in a class is so seriously disruptive as to compel immediate action, the instructor has the authority to remove a student from the class on an interim basis, pending an informal hearing on the behavior.

AI Policy
This policy governs the responsible use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GAI) in coursework and research. It applies to undergraduate students and academic researchers, ensuring transparency, integrity, and accountability.
GAI may support learning and research by helping organize ideas, checking grammar, or assisting with planning. However, it must never replace original analysis, creativity, or independent thinking. All uses of GAI must be disclosed clearly in assignments, projects, theses, and publications. Example: "ChatGPT (OpenAI, 2025) was used for language editing. All ideas and conclusions are my own."
Students may use GAI only as a supportive tool, with a maximum of twenty-five percent of text-based assignments. Its use is strictly prohibited in exams, quizzes, and graded in-class assessments. Researchers may use GAI for structuring, editing, and idea generation, but not for writing entire papers, fabricating references, or producing false data. Accuracy must always be verified.
Violations include hidden or unauthorized use, failure to disclose, plagiarism, or data falsification. Penalties may involve warnings, resubmission, grade reduction, or disciplinary action. Instructors and supervisors must specify permitted levels of GAI use in syllabi or research guidelines.
GAI is allowed only as a supportive tool. Students remain fully responsible for the originality, accuracy, and integrity of their work.

Tentative Schedule

Week	**Date/Day (tentative)**	**Topics**	**Textbook/Assignments**
1	17.09.2026	Course Overview, Introduction to Political Science Research Methods: What is science? How is politics scientifically studied?	(Chapter 1) Mcnabb, D.E. (2016) *Research methods for political*

			science: quantitative and qualitative approaches. London And New York: Routledge, Taylor Et Francis Group.
2	24.09.2026	Descriptive Statistics and Political Data Obtainment	(Chapter 2) Mcnabb, D.E. (2016) *Research methods for political science: quantitative and qualitative approaches.* London And New York: Routledge, Taylor Et Francis Group.
3	03.10.2026	Specifying research question	(Chapter 3) David Levine, Kathryn Szabat, David Stephan. *Business Statistics, 8th edition.* Pearson, 2023.
4	10.10.2026	Basic Propability	(Chapter 4) David Levine, Kathryn Szabat, David Stephan. *Business Statistics, 8th edition.* Pearson, 2023.
5	17.10.2026	Discrete Probability Distributions	(Chapter 5) David Levine, Kathryn Szabat, David Stephan. *Business Statistics, 8th edition.* Pearson, 2023.
6	24.10.2026	Grounded Theory: How grounded theory is applied to conduct qualitative data analysis?	(Chapter 6) Mcnabb, D.E. (2016) *Research methods for political science: quantitative and qualitative approaches.* London And New York: Routledge, Taylor Et Francis Group.
7		**Midterm Exam**	
8	07.11.2026	Sampling Distributions	**(**Chapter 7**)** David Levine, Kathryn Szabat, David Stephan. *Business Statistics, 8th edition.* Pearson, 2023.
9	14.11.2026	Confidence İnterval Estimation	(Chapter 8) Mcnabb, D.E. (2016) *Research methods for political science: quantitative and qualitative approaches.* London

			And New York: Routledge, Taylor Et Francis Group.
10	21.11.2026	Hypothesis Testing I	(Chapter 9) David Levine, Kathryn Szabat, David Stephan. *Business Statistics, 8th edition.* Pearson, 2023.
11	28.11.2026	Hypothesis Testing II	(Chapter 10) David Levine, Kathryn Szabat, David Stephan. *Business Statistics, 8th edition.* Pearson, 2023.
12	05.12.2026	Chi-Square Tests	(Chapter 11) David Levine, Kathryn Szabat, David Stephan. *Business Statistics, 8th edition.* Pearson, 2023.
13	12.12.2026	Simple Linear Regression	(Chapter 12) David Levine, Kathryn Szabat, David Stephan. *Business Statistics, 8th edition.* Pearson, 2023.
14	19.12.2026	Multiple Regression	(Chapter 13) David Levine, Kathryn Szabat, David Stephan. *Business Statistics, 8th edition.* Pearson, 2023.
15	26.12.2026	Multivariate Regression and Final Wrap-up	(Chapter 14) David Levine, Kathryn Szabat, David Stephan. *Business Statistics, 8th edition.* Pearson, 2023.
		Final Exam	

Additional readings and assignments will be provided by the instructor for this course. *If neccesary, some minor modifications may be made to this syllabus by the instructor.*