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| <b>Identification</b>                          | <b>Subject (code, title, credits)</b>   | <b>PSIR 400 Research Methods (Group A), 6 ECTS</b>                         |
|  | <b>Department</b>   | <b>Political Science and International Relations</b>                       |
|  | <b>Program (undergraduate, graduate)</b>  | Bachelors  |
|  | <b>Term</b>   | Fall 2023  |
|  | <b>Instructor</b>   | Elsevar Mammadov   |
|  | <b>E-mail:</b>  | <a href="mailto:mammadov.elsevar@gmail.com">mammadov.elsevar@gmail.com</a> |
|  | <b>Phone:</b>   |  |
|  | <b>Classroom/hours</b>  | 11 Mehseti str. (Neftchilar campus), Room #                                |
|  | <b>Office hours</b>   | by appointment   |
| <b>Prerequisites</b>                           |   |  |
| <b>Language</b>                                | English   |  |
| <b>Compulsory/Elective</b>                     | Required  |  |
| <b>Required textbooks and course materials</b> | <p><b>Core textbook:</b><br/>(2005) Political Science Research Methods. 5<sup>th</sup> edition, Wadsworth</p> <p><b>Supplementary textbook:</b><br/>Frankfort-Nachmias, Ch., &amp; Nachmias, D. (2000). <i>Research Methods in the Social Sciences</i>. 6<sup>th</sup> edition, Worth Publishers and St.Martins Press.</p>  |  |
| <b>Course website</b>                          |   |  |
| <b>Course outline</b>                          | <p>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.</p> <p>In general, the course is composed of three modules: 1) scientific research and its building blocks; 2) modes of data gathering (content analysis, elite interviewing, survey research, observation); 3) Analysis of collected data.</p> |  |
| <b>Course objectives</b>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To introduce student to empirical research in political science.</li> <li>• To present students the various methodologies of empirical research applied by contemporary political scientists.</li> <li>• Introduce basic software programs designed to analyze collected data.</li> <li>• Help students to obtain necessary knowledge and capacity to understand and examine empirical researches.</li> <li>• Help students to make empirical causal inferences between the proposed variables.</li> <li>• Help students to acquire necessary capacity to build theoretical and operational definition of proposed concepts.</li> <li>• Give students necessary knowledge to prepare their own research and present findings to peers.</li> </ul>  |  |

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| <b>Learning outcomes</b> | <p>At the end of the semester, students who successfully completed the course are expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Have a profound understanding of research process (basic principles and procedures of research methodology)</li> <li>b) Have necessary ability to understand (and apply) the methods of collection of data in scientific research</li> <li>c) Analyze collected data using univariate, bivariate and multivariate analysis methods</li> <li>d) evaluate both quantitative and qualitative research findings.</li> </ul>  |                       |                       |
| <b>Evaluation</b>        | <b>Methods</b>  | <b>Date/deadlines</b> | <b>Percentage (%)</b> |
|                          | <b>Midterm Exam</b>   |                       | <b>25</b>             |
|                          | <b>Class attendance</b>   |                       | <b>5</b>              |
|                          | <b>Active participation</b>   |                       | <b>10</b>             |
|                          | <b>Case study and PP presentation</b>   |                       | <b>10</b>             |
|                          | <b>Paper</b>  |                       | <b>10</b>             |
|                          | <b>Final Exam</b>   |                       | <b>40</b>             |
|                          | <b>Total</b>  |                       | <b>100</b>            |
| <b>Policy</b>            | <p><b><u>In-class quiz:</u></b> Two short (30 minute) quizzes will be held throughout the semester. The quizzes will be prepared based on the materials taught during the previous lectures. The idea behind the quizzes is to make sure that students have successfully grasped the main points covered in the materials. Each quiz will last about 30 minutes and will be held during the class hours.</p> <p><b><u>Presentation/Group Discussion:</u></b> Students will be asked to choose a sample research topic to present to the class. They will be required to follow all research principles and methodologies presented during the lectures. The template form of the presentation will be provided by instructor.</p> <p><b><u>Midterm:</u></b> Exam will include the topics covered till the exam date. Duration of the examination will approximately constitute 75 – 90 minutes. On the exam date the class will not be held.</p> <p><b><u>Final:</u></b> Final exam will be comprehensive in nature and will be held at the end of semester.</p> <p>All exams will be in written and subject to time change.</p> <p><b><i>Make-up Exam Policy:</i></b></p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>Class attendance:</b></p> |                       |                       |

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.

**Tentative Schedule**

| <b>Week</b> | <b>Date/Day (tentative)</b> | <b>Topics</b>   | <b>Textbook/Assignments</b> |
|-------------|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 1           |                             | Course Overview, Introduction to Political Science Research Methods: What is science? How is politics scientifically studied? | (Chapter 1)                 |
| 2           |                             | Empiricism in Political Science   | (Chapter 2)                 |

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| 3  |  | Designing the Research: How are causal inferences created?                            | Political Science Research Methods, University of Delaware, 8 <sup>th</sup> edition, (Chapter 2) |
| 4  |  | Hypotheses, Concepts and Variables - Fundamentals of Research                         | (Chapter 3)  |
| 5  |  | Specifying research question  | (Chapter 4)  |
| 6  |  | Review of literature in Political Science Research                                    | (Chapter 5)  |
| 7  |  | <b>Midterm Exam</b>   |  |
| 8  |  | The Measurement as the main component of scientific research                          | (Chapter 5)  |
| 9  |  | Data Collection methods: Observations: Direct and Indirect Observation                | (Chapter 6)  |
| 10 |  | Data Collection Methods: Analysis of documents: How are written records used?         | (Chapter 7)  |
| 11 |  | Sampling – Methodology, Basics and Types of Sampling                                  | (Chapter 8)  |
| 12 |  | Data Collection Methods: Interviewing the Elite and Survey Research                   | (Chapter 9)  |
| 13 |  | Quantitative Data Analysis  | (Chapter 10)   |
| 14 |  | Qualitative Data Analysis   | (Chapter 11)   |
| 15 |  | Grounded Theory: How grounded theory is applied to conduct qualitative data analysis? |  |
|    |  | <b>Final Exam</b>   |  |

This syllabus is a guide for the course and any modifications to it will be announced in advance.