

Fall 2005  
International Relations 211: Approaches to Research

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Course Description

IR 211 is the complement to IR 210. This sequence of classes is required for all IR majors and for IR honors. The purpose of IR 211 is to introduce you to approaches toward research. International Relations is a diverse, multidisciplinary field of study. Our texts represent more than one social science in reflection of that reality.

The lectures will run in sequence with Earl Babbie's text, *The Practice of Social Research*. (It is important to note that the lectures will complement rather than duplicate Babbie's presentation.) Babbie's book, now in its tenth edition, includes excellent supplementary materials. For example, the CD ROM will be a great asset to you in reviewing for the exams and preparing your paper. The text by W. Phillips Shively, *The Craft of Political Research*, will help by providing substantive illustrations in another discipline of many concepts from Babbie.

The overall purpose of this course is to provide fundamental material about approaches to research while also conveying the need for scepticism as the foundation of scientific

inquiry. Fred Leavitt's text, *Evaluating Scientific Research: Separating Fact from Fiction*, will be invaluable in the latter sense.

The mid-term examination will take place on October 20 and have a short answer and essay format. The final examination, held on December 13, also will have a short answer and essay format and is cumulative (i.e., will cover all material from the start of the semester). (The time of the final examination cannot be altered, so please do not book a flight and then request an earlier exam.) Study guides will be provided so you can prepare effectively for each respective exam. All of the material from the lectures, assigned readings, and discussion sections will be tested on the exams.

The term essay, limited to ten double-spaced pages, is due in class on December 1. The topic will be worked out with your teaching assistant. A one-page, double-spaced outline of your paper is due on November 8 or there will be a 20% penalty on the paper grade. The outline should include an overview of what the paper will accomplish. A three-page outline, along with a tentative set of references that consist of scholarly articles and books, is due on November 17 or there will a 20% penalty on the paper grade. Sources other than scholarly articles and books may be used with permission of your teaching assistant.

This course will depend on effective participation from you. Participation in discussion sections, worth 20% of your final grade, is very important and I expect everyone to read the assignments that appear for each date prior to each lecture. The discussion sections will include a few graded homework assignments that should help in preparing for the exams.

All assignments are subject to change as noted in class, although none is expected at this time.

Be sure to back up all of your computer files. Do not turn in your only copy of any requirement.

#### Americans with Disabilities Act

Students requesting accommodations based on disability are required to register with Disability Services and Programs each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP when adequate documentation is filed. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible. DSP is open Monday-Friday 8:30-5:00. The office is in Student Union 301 and their phone number is 213-740-0776. Students must make their request in the stipulated period prior to an exam.

#### Make-up Requirements

There will be no make-up assignments or tests for unexcused absences. Acceptable excuses, meaning medical or family emergencies and official university-related business, must be provided either to your teaching assistant in person, in writing, or by phone before an absence and in writing afterwards in order to be considered. Students who are unable to complete a requirement for legitimate reasons that do not qualify as excused under university guidelines, and who notify their teaching assistant ahead of time may, at the latter's discretion, complete a requirement belatedly. Any requirement turned in on the day that it is due but after class meets will face a 20% penalty. Each additional late day will mean an additional 20% deduction.

### Classroom Etiquette

Students are expected to observe all rules of proper classroom conduct. In order to insure an appropriate environment conducive to learning by all: No cell phone calls, incoming or outgoing, are allowed in this class; please turn off your cell phone or set to vibrate.

### Policy on Academic Ethics and Honesty

Academic honesty is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The academic community regards academic dishonesty as an extremely serious matter, with serious consequences. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting or collaboration, consult your teaching assistant.

### Required Reading

Please buy the following books. Previous editions of the books are not acceptable as substitutes. These are available at the bookstore:

Earl Babbie, *The Practice of Social Research*. 10<sup>th</sup> ed. Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth, 2004.

Fred Leavitt, *Evaluating Scientific Research: Separating Fact from Fiction*. Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press, Inc., 2001.

W. Phillips Shively, *The Craft of Political Research*. 6<sup>th</sup> ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2005.

### Course Requirements

Mid-term Examination (October 20)	20%
Final Examination (December 13, 2:00-4:00 p.m.)	30%
Term Essay (due December 1, one-page outline due November 17)	30%
Discussion Section Attendance and Class Participation	20%

### Schedule

August	23	Introduction
		<u>Note</u> : no discussion sections this week
	25	Human Inquiry and Science
		Babbie, pp. 3-31, Leavitt, ix-xiv
	30	Paradigms, Theory, and Social Research, Part I
		Babbie, pp. 32-60; Shively, pp. 1-10
September	1	<u>Class Cancelled</u>
	6	Paradigms, Theory, and Social Research, Part II
		Leavitt, pp. 1-27; Shively, pp. 13-40
	8	The Ethics and Politics of Social Research
		Babbie, pp. 61-83; Leavitt, pp. 28-45, 201-209; Shively, pp. 11-12
	13	Research Design
		Babbie, pp. 86-117; Shively, pp. 74-96; Leavitt, pp. 46-56
	15	Conceptualization, Operationalization, and Measurement, Part I
		Babbie, pp. 118-149; Shively, pp. 41-73
	20	Conceptualization, Operationalization, and Measurement, Part II

- Leavitt, pp. 57-89
- 22 Indexes, Scales, and Typologies  
Babbie, pp. 151-177
- 27 The Logic of Sampling, Part I  
Babbie, pp. 178-217
- 29 The Logic of Sampling, Part II  
Shively, pp. 97-109
- October 4 Experiments, Part I  
Babbie, pp. 219-241
- 6 Experiments, Part II  
Leavitt, pp. 90-125
- Note: study guide provided for mid-term examination
- 11 Survey Research  
Babbie, pp. 242-280; Leavitt, pp. 161-179
- 13 Qualitative Field Research  
Babbie, pp. 281-311; Leavitt, pp.135-154, 156-160
- 18 Unobtrusive Research  
Babbie, pp. 312-340
- 20 Mid-term Examination
- 25 Evaluation Research  
Babbie, pp. 341-365
- 27 Qualitative Data Analysis, Part I  
Babbie, pp. 367-394

- November 1 Qualitative Data Analysis, Part II
- 3 Reading and Writing Social Research  
Babbie, pp. 472-493
- 8 Quantitative Data Analysis, Part I  
Babbie, pp. 395-420; Leavitt, pp. 126-134; Shively, pp. 110-130  
Note: first stage of outline for term essay is due in your discussion section this week
- 10 Quantitative Data Analysis, Part II  
Shively, pp. 131-138
- 15 The Elaboration Model  
Babbie, pp. 421-439
- 17 Class Cancelled  
Note: second stage of outline for term essay is due in your discussion section this week
- 22 Social Statistics, Part I  
Babbie, pp. 440-471  
Note: study guide provided for final examination
- 24 Class and Discussion Sections Cancelled
- 29 Social Statistics, Part II  
Shively, pp. 147-163; Leavitt, pp. 189-200
- December 1 Review  
Shively, pp. 164-167  
Note: Term Essay Due in Class