

DEREE COLLEGE SYLLABUS FOR: IR 3120 Research Methods in International Relations and European Affairs 3/0/3						
(Updated: FALL 2025)						
UK LEVEL (appropriate only for validated courses): 5 UK CREDITS: 15						
PREREQUISITES:	IR 2010 - Introduction to International Relations					
CATALOG DESCRIPTION:	The role and significance of research in the domain of international relations. Formulation and clarification of research questions and problems, writing literature review, designing research, data collection and analysis, interpretation of findings, argumentation on problem resolution.					
RATIONALE:	The study of international relations involves the description of political phenomena, issues, and problems, which are analysed based on theoretical perspectives, reflected upon in a methodological way. In this course, students will be acquainted with qualitative and quantitative research methods that will enable them to assess, interpret and evaluate political events, political behaviour, the role of individuals and political institutions. It also provides students with a basis of conducting self- directed research activities.					
LEARNING OUTCOMES:	<i>As a result of taking this course, the student should be able to:</i> <div><div>1. Examine a range of qualitative and quantitative methods and techniques used in research.</div><div>2. Understand the basic steps of drafting a research proposal.</div><div>3. Develop interpretation skills by examining international relations phenomena or issues and proposing a resolution.</div><div>4. Critically evaluate different theoretical perspectives in the domain of international relations as part of a research project.</div></div>					
METHOD OF TEACHING AND LEARNING:	In congruence with the teaching and learning strategy of the college, the following tools are used: <div><div>Lectures and class discussions.</div><div>Homework assignments.</div><div>Office hours held by the instructor to provide further assistance to students.</div><div>Use of library facilities for further study and preparation for the exams</div><div>Use of the Blackboard course management platform to further support communication, by posting lecture notes, assignment instruction, timely announcements, formative quizzes and online submission of assignments.</div></div>					
ASSESSMENT:	<div>Summative:</div> <table><tr><td>1<sup>st</sup> assessment: Group work (peer-review)</td><td>10%</td></tr><tr><td>2<sup>nd</sup> assessment: In-class exam on methods of</td><td>30%</td></tr></table>		1 <sup>st</sup> assessment: Group work (peer-review)	10%	2 <sup>nd</sup> assessment: In-class exam on methods of	30%
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2 <sup>nd</sup> assessment: In-class exam on methods of	30%					

	<table><tr><td>data collection and analysis (1 hour)</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>3<sup>rd</sup> assessment: Research Proposal (1500-1800 words)</td><td>60%</td></tr></table> <p><b>Formative:</b></p> <table><tr><td>In-class writing exercises; in-class presentation of research proposal; submission of drafts of parts of proposal</td><td><b>0</b></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>The 1st summative assessment tests Learning Outcome 1. The 2nd summative assessment tests Learning Outcome 2. The 3rd summative assessment tests Learning Outcomes 3 and 4.</p> <p>The final grade for this module will not be determined through grade averaging. Students are required to resit any failed assessments.</p>	data collection and analysis (1 hour)		3 <sup>rd</sup> assessment: Research Proposal (1500-1800 words)	60%	In-class writing exercises; in-class presentation of research proposal; submission of drafts of parts of proposal	<b>0</b>		
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<b>INDICATIVE READING:</b>	<p><b>REQUIRED READING:</b></p> <p>Lamont, C. (2022). Research Methods in International Relations. (2nd edition). Sage Publications Ltd.</p> <p><b>RECOMMENDED READING:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lamont, C. Mięczysław P. Boduszynski. (2020). Research Methods in Politics and International Relations, London: Sage Publications Ltd</li><li>• Turabian, Kate (2018). A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses and Dissertations. University of Chicago Press.</li><li>• Williams, H.M. (2020). Statistics for politics and International Relations Using IBM SPSS Statistics, Sage Publications Ltd.</li><li>• Johnson, J.B., H.T. Reynolds, and Jason D. Mycoff. (2020). Political Science Research Methods, (9th edition), London: CQ Press</li><li>• George, Alexander L., Andrew Benet. (2005). Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences, Cambridge: MIT Press.</li><li>• Van Evera, Stephen. (1997). Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science, Ithaca: Cornell University Press.</li><li>• Bell, J (1999). Doing Your Research Project – A Guide for First Time Researchers in Education and Social Science.3<sup>rd</sup> ed. The Open University Press.</li><li>• Creswell, J.W (2013). Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches.2<sup>nd</sup>. ed. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications.</li><li>• Flick, U. (1998). An Introduction to Qualitative Research. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications.</li><li>• George, A.L. &amp; Benet, A. (2005). Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences. Cambridge Mass.: MIT Press.</li><li>• Harrison, L &amp; Callan, T. (2013). Key Research Concepts in Politics. Sage</li></ul>								

	<p>Publications.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Klotz, A. &amp; Prakash, D. (2008). Qualitative Methods in UK.</li> <li>• Miles, M.B., Huberman, A.M. and Saldana, J. (2014). Qualitative Data Analysis. London: Sage Publications.</li> </ul> <p>Other sources, including journal articles, research papers etc. recommended by the instructor throughout the semester and added to Blackboard.</p>
<p><b>INDICATIVE MATERIAL:</b> (e.g. audiovisual, digital material, etc.)</p>	<p><b>REQUIRED MATERIAL:</b> N/A</p> <p><b>RECOMMENDED MATERIAL:</b> To be shared by the instructor throughout the course and via Blackboard.</p>
<p><b>COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS:</b></p>	<p>Communication with instructor via email and in one-on-one sessions regarding the selection of research question.</p>
<p><b>SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS:</b></p>	<p>MS Office and Blackboard CMS Enter any additional s/w requirements.</p>
<p><b>WWW RESOURCES:</b></p>	<p>- <a href="https://www.statistics.gr/en/home/">https://www.statistics.gr/en/home/</a>  - <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat">https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat</a>  - <a href="https://www.oecd.org/en.html">https://www.oecd.org/en.html</a>  - <a href="https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/screen/home">https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/screen/home</a>  Databases available through the ACG Library</p>
<p><b>INDICATIVE CONTENT:</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Research methods in International Relations and European Affairs</li> <li>2. Research questions and research design</li> <li>3. Research Ethics</li> <li>4. Writing a Literature Review</li> <li>5. Writing a Methodology</li> <li>6. Qualitative Methods in International Relations</li> <li>7. Quantitative Methods in International Relations (basic introduction to)</li> <li>8. Mixed Methods in International Relations</li> <li>9. Drafting a viable research proposal</li> </ol>