

POP88041 — Research Design A

Module Information	
Module Code	POP88041
Module Title	Research Design A
Department	Political Science
Module Personnel	Gizem Arikan
Academic Year	2026-27
Credit Weighting	10
Semester	Semester 1
Contact Hours	e.g. 2 lectures per week

Module Content	
Module Description	This graduate seminar introduces students to the scientific inquiry of the political world. Students will learn how to identify compelling research questions and how to structure a study that contributes to an existing body of research. Moreover, we will discuss the problems of causal inference and multiple methodological approaches (statistical analysis, process tracing, case studies) to the empirical study of politics. The emphasis of the module will be on the development of novel, falsifiable, and empirically testable explanations of political phenomena.
Module Learning Aims	At the end of the course, students are expected to gain a greater understanding of the research process, problems associated with conducting social research, become familiar with different research methods, learn how to formulate research questions, hypotheses, and selecting appropriate research design and data sources to test their hypotheses. Students will gain first-hand experience by writing article reviews and putting together a full research proposal, thus helping them to build the skills essential to conduct high quality research in the field of international relations and comparative politics.
Learning Outcomes	At the end of the module, students are expected to gain a greater understanding of the research process, problems

Module Content

	associated with conducting social research, become familiar with different research methods, learn how to formulate research questions, hypotheses, and selecting appropriate research design and data sources to test their hypotheses. Students will gain first-hand experience by writing article reviews and putting together a full research proposal, thus helping them to build the skills essential to conduct high quality research in the field of international relations and comparative politics.
Indicative Reading / Resources	• Gerring, John. 2012. <i>Social Science Methodology: A Unified Framework</i>. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Second Edition. • Johnson, Janet Buttolph, Reynolds, H.T., and Mycoff, Jason D. 2015. <i>Political Science Research Methods</i>. CQ Press. • King, G., Keohane, R.O., Verba, S. 1994. <i>Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research</i>. Princeton University Press.

Assessment

Assessment Components	Participation 5%, Research Question 10%, Literature review 10%, Empirical strategy 15%, Final proposal 60%
------------------------------	--

Additional Information

Prerequisites	None
----------------------	------