

**Course Profile - Department of International Relations**

Course Number : <b>POLS 222</b>	Course Title: <b>Social Science Research Methods</b>
Required / Elective : Required (POLS, HSS)	Pre / Co-requisites : None
Catalog Description: Introduction to theory-oriented research in political science. Research problems, research designs, qualitative and quantitative data collection techniques, data processing, data analysis. Interpretation of social science data with special emphasis on quantitative methods, and report writing on the basis of data analysis and findings.	Textbook / Required Material :  Earl Babbie. 2013. <i>The Practice of Social Research</i> (International edition). Wadsworth, Cengage Learning.
<b>Course Structure / Schedule : (3+0+0) 3 / 6 ECTS</b>	
Extended Description : This is the foundation course in the methodology of social sciences. The course deals with the scientific study of politics, institutions, society and people. The initial purpose of this course is to introduce students to the basic concepts and techniques that are frequently used in social science research. The course also aims to help students develop the language and logical skills to draw valid inferences about the observable phenomena, and understand, use, and design social science research.	
Design content : None	Computer usage: Basic SPSS statistical software knowledge, and office word skills for research papers
Course Outcomes:  By the end of this course, students will be able to: 1. Be able to understand and use the scientific methods of social science research (experiment, survey research, qualitative field research and content analysis). 2. Understand, interpret and analyze statistical data. 3. Acquire the basic skills of writing survey research design. 4. Understand demographic factors that shape political behavior in Turkey (gender, income, education, religious denomination, etc.). 5. Understand and comply with the universal ethics and politics of social science research.	
Recommended reading:  Gary King, Robert O. Keohane and Sidney Verba. 1994. <i>Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research</i> . Princeton: Princeton University Press.	
Teaching methods: Lectures	
Course Outline	
<b>Week</b>	<b>Topics</b>
1	Introduction and Overview
2	Science and Social Research

3	Social Inquiry: Ethics and Politics
4	Inquiry, Theory and Paradigms
5	Purpose and Design of Research Projects
6	From Concept to Measurement
7	Midterm Examination
8	Indexes, Scales and Typologies
9	Creating and Writing Social Research Projects
10	Survey Research
11	Experiments I
12	Experiments II
13	Qualitative Field Research I
14	Qualitative Field Research II
15	Unobtrusive Research/Content Analysis

Assessment methods:

Attendance: 10 %

Pop quizzes: 15 %

Research paper: 20 %

Midterm: 25 %

Final Examination: 30 %

#### Contribution of Course Learning Outcomes to Program Outcomes

	Program Outcomes	*Level of Contribution				
		1	2	3	4	5
IR1	Understand the fundamental concepts and theories of the field of International Relations and be able to apply them to historical and current events					
IR2	Understand the historical processes of political structures and institutions					
IR3	Be able to follow the world political conjuncture					
IR4	Grasp the structures and functions of international/regional/intergovernmental organizations					
IR5	Be able to analyze the dynamics that form the political substructure of various events and phenomena, as well as their effects					
IR6	Understand the international legal framework					
IR7	Grasp and question the causes and consequences of economic developments and their impact on international relations					

PS1	Understand the fundamental concepts and theories of the field of Political Science and be able to apply them to historical and current events					X
PS2	Understand the historical processes, structures, and functions of political institutions					
PS3	Be able to analyze the dynamics that form the political substructure of various events and phenomena, as well as their effects					
PS4	Understand the mechanisms of political change (such as voting, lobbying, political movements, legal reforms, revolution, etc.)					
PS5	Possess knowledge about those fundamental issues that shape political and societal life (such as race, gender, class, environment, security, religion, identity, etc.)				X	
PS6	Acknowledge that political phenomena can be explained differently by different schools of thought					X
PS7	Grasp and question the causes and consequences of economic developments and their impact on politics			X		
8	Think independently, creatively, and critically				X	
9	Be an entrepreneur and take initiative					
10	Have self-confidence				X	
11	Have the ability to carry out systematic comparisons and rightly differentiate similarities and differences					
12	Be open-minded and prepared to work together with people from different cultures and groups					
13	Be aware and a follower of social responsibilities as well as political rights and freedoms					
14	Internalize work ethics and behave accordingly				X	
15	Be able to speak and deliver presentations in front of public					
16	Understand, read, and write in English				X	
17	Have the ability to observe, analyze, and report				X	
18	Be able to implement the principles and methods of scientific research					X
19	Understand and interpret statistical data				X	
20	Be prone to team work					
21	Possess computer and technological literacy					X

\*1 Lowest, 2 Low, 3 Average, 4 High, 5 Highest

Student workload:

Pre-reading .....	53 hrs
Lectures .....	42 hrs
Exams and Quizzes .....	8 hrs
Writing survey research design papers.....	47 hrs
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>150 hrs .....</b> to match 25x6 ECTS

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