

Empirical Research Methods

Last Updated: Fri, 08/01/2025

Course prefix: INTA

Course number: 2010

Section: A

CRN (you may add up to five):

82096

Instructor First Name: Chandler

Instructor Last Name: Thornhill

Semester: Fall

Academic year: 2025

Course description:

Develops skills in research design, model building, and hypothesis construction. Provides experience in using computer software programs to perform statistical tests including t-tests, chi-square, and regression.

Course learning outcomes:

1. Students will be able to apply basic statistical skills to include quantitative and qualitative methodologies in academic and professional contexts within the field of international affairs.
2. By the end of this course, you will be able to critically evaluate the appropriateness of the research methods employed by journals representative of the field.
3. Students will learn how to import data, produce summary statistics, create visualizations, and run linear regression in the R programming language.
4. Students will create a research proposal that will be in the style of the field and will utilize one of the methodologies covered in the course.

Required course materials:

No materials required

Grading policy:

The course will consist of the following assignments:

- 4 Homework Assignments (40%)
- Data Presentation (10%)
- Research Proposal (40%)
- Participation (10%)

Per university policy, I use the following grading scale: "A" = [100-90], "B" = (90-80], etc.

Attendance policy:

Attendance is part of the participation grade. Students are allowed 3 unexcused absences. After this, failure to attend will result in a loss of 1 point of the participation grade.

Academic honesty/integrity statement:

Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. All work submitted must be original and properly cited. Plagiarism, cheating, or any form of academic dishonesty will result in immediate consequences as outlined in the university's academic integrity policy.