


PAF 9172–Research and Analysis II

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1 Course Information

Course Title: Research and Analysis II
Number and Section: PAF 9172 NETC
Term: Fall 2021
Course Format: Online and asynchronous

1.1 Course Description

The second course in a two-course sequence (the first course is PAF 9170) that provides an introduction to research and analytical methods as applied to public policy and management. Students will develop expertise as consumers of research findings and learn basic methods for designing and conducting research. Topics include the use of theory or models, identifying causes, experiments and quasi-experiments, the logic of control variables and the interpretation of multiple regression, measurement concepts and methods, qualitative methods, and complex sampling. The emphasis is on learning these ideas through practice with many different examples of real-world research and empirical evidence.

Prerequisite: PAF 9170 or permission of the instructor. Open to Austin W. Marxe School of Public and International Affairs students; others with Marxe School permission.

1.2 Master of Public Administration (MPA) Competencies

1. To lead and manage in the public interest.
2. To participate in, and contribute to, the policy process.
3. To analyze, synthesize, think critically, solve problems and make evidence-informed decisions in a complex and dynamic environment.
4. To articulate, apply, and advance a public service perspective.
5. To communicate and interact productively.

2 Course Material

Remler, D. K., & Van Ryzin, G. G. (2015). *Research methods in practice: Strategies for description and causation* (2nd ed.). SAGE.

StataCorp. (2019). *Stata statistical software: Release 16*. StataCorp LLC!.

2.1 Recommended Material

American Psychological Association (Ed.). (2019). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.).

2.2 Additional Material

Additional material will be posted to BlackBoard from time to time.

3 Introduction

This course will be conducted fully online via BlackBoard.

3.1 Lecture Video

Course lectures will be delivered online via weekly modules. A recorded lecture over the week's topic will be posted on BlackBoard at the beginning of the week (tentatively every Monday, Tuesday at the latest). Students will have the week to complete all material at their own pace (abiding by the due dates for assignments).

3.2 Student Hours

I will hold a weekly session on Zoom every Tuesday evening from 2000 to 2100 New York-time. Everyone should feel welcome to come and discuss the class and material. If you are interested in a private discussion or cannot make it at that time, please email me and let me know and we will find a good time for both of us to meet.

4 Course Requirements

4.1 Class Participation [25 percent]

You are required to write several BlackBoard posts regarding the course material or the answer to a posted discussion question. This assignment should contain your critical reaction/thoughts to the readings, or response to a question related to the week's material. Usually, there will be at least two discussion posts, one focused on the reading, and another on a question posed at the end of the video lecture. You should respond to both and your responses should be between 200 to 350 words in length. No late responses will be accepted, you must submit them to BlackBoard by the end of the week when it is due on Sunday, 11:59pm. Refer to the Course Schedule for specific deadlines. Besides your own posts, you should answer to 2 of your classmates posts. So, look over what other people have said and provide meaningful feedback and comments to at least 2 classmates.

You are welcome to post links of news articles to exemplify your points. You will be graded based on the quality and thoughtfulness of your responses. The dates when posts are due can be found in the course schedule.

4.1.1 Q&A Discussion Board. There is a questions-and-answers forum on BlackBoard. Use this forum to post your questions and to reply to one another. You can start a new thread or reply to one that is already open. I will look in on the Discussion board several times each weekday and will reply to your questions.

4.1.2 Examples of Stats in Everyday Life. During in person class, students often bring up examples they see in the daily news or real world that relates to the course material. I created a forum on BlackBoard, named “Use and Misuse Examples.” If you come across great examples of statistics or data being misused or misinterpreted, please post them here. This will count towards your participation grade.

4.2 Quizzes [25 percent]

In order to ensure adequate reading of the textbook and comprehension of materials, throughout the semester you will have several quizzes. These will be 20 to 45 minutes multiple-choice online quizzes on the assigned readings and material we went over in the video during that week. All quizzes will be posted on BlackBoard on Monday and you will have until Sunday at 11:59pm to complete them. The dates when quizzes are due can be found in the course schedule. Note that the lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

4.3 Assignments [50 percent]

Throughout the semester you will have five assignments, each worth 10 percent of your final grade. More details will be given out on BlackBoard about each.

4.3.1 Late assignment policy. Assignments should be submitted on BB in the Turnitin link under “Course Documents.” Scan your assignment and make one and only one PDF file Once you create the PDF file, you should upload it onto BlackBoard under the assignments’ link on Course Documents. Turning assignments on time is expected from all students. I understand that sometimes life happens, so if you cannot turn in an assignment by the due date indicated on the course schedule, let me know immediately. You must email me requesting an extension before the deadline, otherwise, it will be considered late. Students will be penalized one full grade per day after the deadline and no assignments will be accepted after three days. Late assignments will only be accepted without penalty if you have a documented excuse (e.g. illness, death in family, illness of child, unforeseeable work emergency, or is undergoing extraordinary circumstances). If that’s the case, informed me as soon as possible, before the assignment is due by email.

4.3.2 Assignment Collaboration Policy. You are free to collaborate on the assignments with your classmates. In fact, you are encouraged to work in groups: working in groups is an excellent way to learn. However, you must individually write up your own assignment in your own words. Frequently students (and professors!) think that they understand something, but when they sit down to try it by themselves, they realize that they do not. Writing out your assignment in your own words is how you will know that you really understand it. Note that if I receive assignments that are verbatim copies or simple paraphrases of one another (wholly or in substantial part), I will mark both assignments down substantially (possibly to zero credit). Do not give other students electronic copies of your assignments.

5 Grading

The course is graded based on the following components:

Participation:	25%
Quizzes:	25%
Assignments:	50%

And letter grades are based on the following schedule:

Min	Max	Grade	Min	Max	Grade	Min	Max	Grade
93.0	100	A	90.0	92.9	A-	87.0	89.9	B+
83.0	86.9	B	80.0	82.9	B-	77.0	79.9	C+
73.0	76.9	C	70.0	72.9	C-	0.0	69.9	F

Beyond these grading tables, discussions, quizzes, and assignments will be graded based on the associated rubrics posted within BlackBoard.

6 Expectations

By registering for a web-based course, you have made a commitment to participate in course discussions and online activities. Plan to participate regularly. Participation for this course is defined as proactive discussion. This requires you to actively reflect on weekly readings and to develop original ideas in your responses. You are expected to demonstrate critical thinking and your understanding of the content in the assigned readings as they relate to the issues identified in the discussions. You are encouraged to respond to other students as well as to your instructor. You are expected to adhere to the general rules of online etiquette.

Tentatively every Monday (Tuesday at the latest) of every week, I will post on BlackBoard, under Course Material, a video containing going over the chapter assigned for that week. You should read the book chapter assigned for that week prior to watching the video. After going over the material, you should check to see if there is a quiz, discussion post, or assignment due that week. For the weeks when assignments are due, you won't have a quiz or discussion forum so you can focus on the assignment. Note that all posts/quizzes and assignments will always be due at the end of the week on Sundays at 11:59 pm. When referring to the class schedule the quiz/forum/assignment are always due at the end of the week due.

It is your responsibility to check BlackBoard and your Baruch email daily. This is how I will communicate with you, and all recorded lectures, quizzes, and course material will be on BlackBoard. You are responsible for announcements made through BlackBoard. Please make it a habit to check BlackBoard on Monday evening for each week's material.

Log into our online classroom regularly to read news, participate in discussions, and post questions. After posting work in a discussion, check back into the discussion to read comments and make any necessary revisions.

Questions and thoughts of general interest to the class should be posted in the "Questions and Answers" forum. For questions pertaining to your own work in the course, please send me an email and we can figure out what is going on.

If you need help or get lost, let me know. I have a lot of resources I can send you that will get you through this. But if you are lost, you should tell me where you last knew where you were. If you send me an email that just says "I am lost, help, I don't know what to do," I will have no idea where you are or how to find you. It is just like being lost in the real world. So when you do get lost, tell me exactly where you are or,

if you cannot, tell me what is happening and how you got there. It will make it a lot easier on both of us. And together, we can find the way out.

7 Additional Course Policies

University and course policies applicable to this course will be provided in a separate document.

Appendix: Tentative Course Schedule

Module	Starting Date	Ending Date	Theme	Due
1	8/25	8/31	Intro, Research in the Real World Reading: Chapter 1	Quiz 1 BB Posts
2	9/1	9/7	Theory/Models & Path Diagrams Reading: Chapter 2	BB Posts
3	9/8	9/14	Qualitative Methods Reading: Chapter 3	Assignment 1
4	9/15	9/28	Measurement Reading: Chapter 4	Quiz 2 BB Posts
5	9/29	10/5	Sampling Reading: Chapter 5	Assignment 2 Part 1
6	10/6	10/12	Primary and Secondary Data Reading: Chapter 6, 7	BB Posts
7	10/13	10/19	Causation Reading: Chapter 11	Assignment 2 Part 2
8	10/20	10/26	Observational Studies Reading: Chapter 12 NB: Spring Recess included here	Quiz 3 BB Posts
9	10/27	11/2	Multiple Regression Reading: Chapter 10, 13	Quiz 4 BB Posts
10	11/3	11/9	Stata–Multiple Regression	Assignment 3
11	11/10	11/16	Randomized Experiments Reading: Chapter 14	Quiz 5 BB Posts
12	11/17	11/30	Natural and Quasi Experiments Reading: Chapter 15	Quiz 6 BB Posts
13	12/1	12/7	Ethics of Research Reading: Chapter 16	Quiz 7 BB Posts
14	12/8	12/14	Specialized Data Requirements in Health and Education	BB Posts
15	12/15	12/21	To Be Determined (TBD)	Assignment 4