

# INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF JAPAN

## Graduate School of International Relations

Academic Year: 2017/2018

Term: Spring

Course	Course code DCC5230	Course title Research Methodology	
Name of Instructor	Shugo Shinohara		Credit Number: 2
Instructor's contact Information	Office#	Office Hours TBA	E-mail: sshinoha@iuj.ac.jp
Class Schedule Day / Time	TBA		

### Course Description:

This course aims to introduce the basic concepts and practical skills for using the four types of research methodology: (i) qualitative interview, (ii) survey, (iii) experiment, and (iv) case study.

### Learning Objectives:

After the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- (1) Understand the basic concepts of research methodology and select an appropriate approach to address important questions in the real world;
- (2) Design an effective research method to evaluate actual policies and programs;
- (3) Acquire practical techniques for conducting interview, survey, experiment, and case study.

### Career Relevance:

This course is useful for both academic and professional careers. Most social scientists are required to design effective research methods to address research questions and test relevant theories. In the field of public administration and policy, evidence-based practice has been growing. Public and non-profit workers are required to design, implement, and evaluate their policies or programs based on the results of data analysis or experiment.

### Course Context or Rationalization:

This course is relevant to most courses in the IUJ. Research methodology can be used to test any social science theories learned in other courses. Also, most data analysis skills are applicable to survey and experiment. Notably, this course will help students complete their master's theses and policy papers.

### Delivery Methods:

This is a highly interactive course in which students learn the subject through group presentation, in-class exercises, and class discussion. To be an effective part of this learning community, students are expected to read the required course materials for each class.

Assessment:

1. Class Attendance: 10%
2. Group Presentation: 20%

The instructor will organize student groups according to their methodological interests: (i) qualitative interview, (ii) survey, (iii) experiment, and (iv) case study. Each group will be assigned to one of the classes. The group will make a 20-minute presentation which critically evaluates an academic paper using the method of their interest.

3. In-class Exercises: 20%

(a) Qualitative Interview Exercise: In the classes of Week 3 – 4, each student will interview a classmate, and later conduct a content analysis on the interview data. Students will submit a one or two-page memo reporting the results of content analysis by Week 6.

(b) Survey Questionnaire Exercise: In the classes of Week 5 – 6, each student will create a survey questionnaire and ask her/his group members to fill in the questionnaire. Each student will get feedbacks from the group members, revise the questionnaire, and submit the finalized questionnaire by Week 8.

4. Final Exam: 20%

Students will take an in-class closed-book exam on [exam date: **TBA**]. This final exam covers Week 3-9. The exam will take various forms such as true/false, multiple choice, and open-ended questions. To prepare for this exam, students will take prep quizzes between Week 4 and 10, which are very similar to the exam questions. The prep quizzes will not be graded.

5. Research Proposal: 30%

Students will submit a research proposal (5-8 double spaced pages) by 11:59 pm, June 11. The proposal will be comprised of introduction, research questions (and hypotheses for quantitative studies), method, and expected contribution. The Instructor will provide a detailed instruction of the research proposal in Week 2.

Prerequisite: N/A

Textbook(s)

**Required:**

Creswell, John W., and J. David Creswell. 2017. *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches*, Fifth Edition. Los Angeles, CA: Sage Publications. ISBN: 978-1506386706.

**Reference Books/Journal Articles:**

\*Copies of the following journal articles and some book chapters can be downloaded at [URL: **TBA**].

Qualitative Research

Creswell, John W., and Cheryl N. Poth. 2017. *Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design: Choosing among Five Approaches*, Fourth Edition. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. ISBN: 978-1506330204.

Denzin, Norman K., and Yvonna S. Lincoln, eds. 2011. *The Sage Handbook of Qualitative Research*, Fifth Edition. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. ISBN: 978-1483349800.

### Survey

Bradburn, Norman M., Seymour Sudman, and Brian Wansink. 2004. *Asking Questions: The Definitive Guide to Questionnaire Design--for Market Research, Political Polls, and Social and Health Questionnaires*. San Francisco, CA: John Wiley & Sons. ISBN: 978-0787970888.

Fowler Jr, Floyd J. 2013. *Survey Research Methods*, Fifth Edition. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. 978-1452259000.

Groves, Robert M., et al. 2009. *Survey Methodology*, Second Edition. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons. ISBN: 978-0470465462.

Lee, Geon, Jennifer Benoit -Bryan, and Timothy P. Johnson. 2012. Survey research in public administration: Assessing mainstream journals with a total survey error framework. *Public Administration Review* 72(1): 87-97.

### Experiment

Baekgaard, Martin et al. 2015. Conducting experiments in public management research: A practical guide. *International Public Management Journal* 18 (2):323-342.

Blom-Hansen, Jens, Rebecca Morton, and Søren Serritzlew. 2015. Experiments in public management research. *International Public Management Journal* 18 (2):151-170.

Dunning, Thad. 2012. *Natural Experiments in the Social Sciences: A Design-based Approach*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press. ISBN: 978-1107698000.

Gerber, Alan S, and Donald P Green. 2012. *Field Experiments: Design, Analysis, and Interpretation*. New York, NY: WW Norton. ISBN: 978-0393979954.

James, Oliver, Sebastian R. Jilke, and Gregg G. Van Ryzin. 2017. *Experiments in Public Management Research: Challenges and Contributions*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. ISBN: 978-1316614235.

### Case Study

Gerring, John. 2004. What is a case study and what is it good for? *American Political Science Review* 98(2): 341-354.

Seawright, Jason, and John Gerring. 2008. Case selection techniques in case study research: A menu of qualitative and quantitative options. *Political Research Quarterly* 61(2): 294-308.

	Gerring, John, and Rose McDermott. 2007. An experimental template for case study research. <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> 51(3): 688-701.
Class Outline	<p>Week 1: Introduction: The Three Approaches to Research</p> <p>Week 2: Research Questions, Theory, and Methodology</p> <p>Week 3: Qualitative Interview</p> <p>Week 4: Content Analysis</p> <p>Week 5: Survey Questionnaire</p> <p>Week 6: Survey Sampling &amp; Data Analysis</p> <p>Week 7: Experiment vs. Observational Study</p> <p>Week 8: Types of Experiment</p> <p>Week 9: Case Study</p> <p>Week 10: Mixed Methods &amp; Course Review</p>
Others (if any)	Learning something new is the joy of life. Let's enjoy this growing process together!