TROY UNIVERSITY
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS DEGREE PROGRAM

IR 6601
RESEARCH METHODS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

PROFESSOR INFORMATION

(Insert name, mailing address, phone [optional], FAX [optional], and e-mail address, website URL[optional])

(Insert brief bio)
SAMPLE:
Dr. James F. Rinehart is a Professor and Chair of the Department of Political Science at Troy University. In addition, he serves as Director of the Master of Science in International Relations degree program.

From 1995 to 2001, Dr. Rinehart taught in the Graduate Program in International Relations at the United States Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School (USAJFKSWCS), Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. He also served as its Academic Director.

Dr. Rinehart received his Ph.D. in International Relations from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University. He is the author of two books: Revolution and the Millennium: China, Mexico, and Iran (Westport, CT: Praeger, 1997) and Apocalyptic Faith and Political Violence: Prophets of Terror (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2006), as well as numerous articles and academic papers on the subjects of religion and international politics, revolution, terrorism, American foreign policy, and international law & conflict management. He holds a B.A. in Economics from the University of Florida.

He is a member of the International Studies Association (ISA). He currently serves as Treasurer of ISA/South and is a member of its Executive Council.

TEXTBOOKS AND/OR OTHER MATERIALS NEEDED

Textbooks & Other Materials:
(list all texts required for the course including ISBN)
(Optional): In addition to these required texts, there will be a few class “handouts” in the form of case studies. Each of these will be available via the Internet. Students should have their textbook from the first week of class. Not having your textbook will not be an acceptable excuse for late work.

COURSE CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

IR 6601 Research Methods in International Relations
(3)
An investigation of the research methodologies employed in the study of International Relations including research design, variables and hypotheses, citations and reference, qualitative analysis and quantitative techniques. A substantial research paper is required in the course. **Note: MSIR candidates must achieve a grade of “B” or better in IR 6601 to complete degree program requirements.**

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course represents the methodological core of the MSIR program. In it, students will sharpen their skills of expression including grammar and rhetoric; demonstrate a working knowledge of research design approaches; demonstrate an ability to create an empirically-based research design proposal; learn to apply descriptive and inferential statistical analysis techniques; understand the role of research in decision-making; demonstrate an ability to use common statistical software packages; and learn about various research related ethical issues.

These skills will be demonstrated through the successful design and execution of a major research project (20-25 pages in length). This assignment has two components. Students are required to prepare a 2-3 page research design proposal. All papers must make use of some form of empirical data to describe or explain some phenomena, test hypotheses, or to answer one or more research questions. The design proposal must include a problem/hypothesis statement and a description of the independent and dependent variables that the student plans to use and how they will operationalized. The proposal must also include a bibliography with at least ten citations. Students follow citation rules from the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA).

The research paper itself must be well organized and written in clear, grammatically correct prose. It must include a short abstract statement, introduction to the problem studied, a literature review, a section that explains the research methods utilized, a findings section, and a conclusion. It must also include two or more well-cited graphical or table representations of empirical data used as part of the research project (that is
created on their own). Students are encouraged to choose research topics that are relevant to them or are work related.

**STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

- Compare and contrast differing explanations of international events.
- Recommend international policies.
- Assess the effectiveness of major instruments of international relations.
- Recommend ways to improve or better use major instruments of international relations.
- Explain the philosophy of social science research.
- Apply scientific method to a research topic.
- Plan a research project.
- Write a substantial research paper.
- Support a conclusion based on empirical research.

**COURSE OUTLINE**

*(PROVIDE AN OUTLINE OF THE COURSE TOPICS)*

**STUDENT EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT**

*(PROVIDE A DETAILED EXPLANATION OF HOW STUDENTS WILL BE EVALUATED AND THEIR ASSIGNED WORK ASSESSED)*

**REFERENCE ALL QUOTATIONS AND THOUGHTS THAT ARE NOT YOUR OWN.** Use either the American Psychological Association’s *Publication Manual* or Turabian’s *Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* for referencing and typing guidelines.

**SUBMITTING WORK**
SAMPLE: Your papers should be written in Standard English using a 12-pitch format, 1-inch margins, and double spacing in WORD document format. Please do not send them in the body of the e-mail itself but, rather, as a WORD document attachment. You can use any font you choose (although, I prefer Times New Roman). Submit all correspondence and assignments (as attachments) by email to the professor. Please include IR 5551 in the subject line. When submitting your papers please include the following information (in this order) Course number and title, first and last name, and subject.

MAKE-UP WORK POLICY

SAMPLE: Missing any part of this schedule may prevent completion of the course. If you foresee difficulty of any type (i.e., an illness, employment change, etc.) which may prevent completion of this course, notify the instructor as soon as possible. Failure to do so will result in failure for an assignment and/or failure of the course. See “Attendance,” above.

If I have not heard from you by the deadline dates for assignments, no make-up work will be allowed (unless extraordinary circumstances existed, such as hospitalization). Requests for extensions must be made in advance and accompanied by appropriate written documentation if the excuse is acceptable to the instructor. "Computer problems" are not an acceptable excuse.

INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY

Missing any part of the Course Schedule may prevent completion of the course. If circumstances will prevent the student from completing the course by the end of the term, the student should complete a request for an incomplete grade.

Note: A grade of incomplete or “INC” is not automatically assigned to students, but rather must be requested by the student by submitting a Petition for and Work to Remove an Incomplete Grade Form. Requests for an incomplete grade must be made on or before the date of the final assignment or test of the term. A grade of “INC” does not replace an “F” and will not be awarded for excessive absences. An “INC” will only be awarded to student presenting a valid case for the inability to complete coursework by the conclusion of the term. It is ultimately the instructor’s decision to grant or deny a request for an incomplete grade, subject to the policy rules below.

Policy/Rules for granting an Incomplete (INC)

- An incomplete cannot be issued without a request from the student.
- To qualify for an incomplete, the student must:
a. Have completed over 50% of the course material and have a documented reason for requesting the incomplete. (50% means all assignments/exams up to and including the mid-term point, test, and/or assignments.)
b. Be passing the course at the time of their request.

If both of the above criteria are not met an incomplete cannot be granted.

- An INC is not a substitute for an F. If a student has earned an “F” by not submitting all the work or by receiving an overall F average, then the F stands.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITY ACT (ADA)

Troy University supports Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, which insure that postsecondary students with disabilities have equal access to all academic programs, physical access to all buildings, facilities and events, and are not discriminated against on the basis of disability. Eligible students, with appropriate documentation, will be provided equal opportunity to demonstrate their academic skills and potential through the provision of academic adaptations and reasonable accommodations. Further information, including appropriate contact information, can be found at the following link: http://www.troy.edu/humanresources/ADAPolicy2003.htm.

HONESTY AND PLAGIARISM

The awarding of a university degree attests that an individual has demonstrated mastery of a significant body of knowledge and skills of substantive value to society. Any type of dishonesty in securing those credentials therefore invites serious sanctions, up to and including suspension and expulsion (see Standard of Conduct in each TROY Catalog). Examples of dishonesty include actual or attempted cheating, plagiarism*, or knowingly furnishing false information to any university employee.

- *Plagiarism is defined as submitting anything for credit in one course that has already been submitted for credit in another course, or copying any part of someone else’s intellectual work – their ideas and/or words – published or unpublished, including that of other students, and portraying it as one’s own. Proper quoting, using strict APA formatting, is required, as described by the instructor.

- This university employs plagiarism-detection software, through which all written student assignments are processed for comparison with material published in traditional sources (books, journals, magazines), on the Internet (to include essays for sale), and papers turned in by students in the same and other classes in this and all previous terms. The penalty for plagiarism may range from zero credit on the assignment, to zero in the course, to expulsion from the university with appropriate notation in the student’s permanent file. Such a decision is at the discretion of the professor.
LIBRARY SUPPORT

The Libraries of Troy University provide access to materials and services that support the academic programs. The address of the Library Web site is https://library.troy.edu. This site provides access to the resources of all Campus and Regional Libraries, as well as to resources such as the Library’s Catalog and Databases. Additionally, the Library can also be accessed by choosing the “Library” link from the University’s home page, www.troy.edu, or through the eLibrary tab within Blackboard.