

**ANKARA YILDIRIM BEYAZIT UNIVERSITY – DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
COURSE SYLLABUS**

Course Code	Course Title	Course Type	ECTS Credits	Prerequisite Information	Date of Preparation
PSPA213	METHODOLOGY IN SOCIAL SCIENCES	Compulsory	5	none	Sep 15, 2025
Instructor of the Course & E-Mail Address	Prof. Dr. Seyit Ali AVCU				
Office Hours & Office Room	Friday, 12:00-13:30 & 317				
Course Content and Objectives	<p>-To gain familiarity with the scientific method of research and analysis in political science and public administration;</p> <p>- To understand the fundamental issues of research including identifying research questions, locating resources, building theoretical arguments, and formulating testable hypotheses;</p> <p>- To gain familiarity with a variety of social science research designs, including experimental, quasi-experimental, and non-experimental designs, with potential applications in public administration settings;</p> <p>- To gain operationally meaningful exposure to different approaches to gather data and use them to answer questions of theoretical or applied relevance; - To be able to develop an applied research design appropriate to the topic of interest and prepare a theoretically engaging and methodologically sound research proposal; and - To gain understanding of the significance of ethical issues in the process of research from methodological concerns to broader concerns of generalizations of findings.</p>				
Textbook(s)	<p>1- Babbie, Earl (2014), The Basics of Social Research. Cengage Learning, 6th Edition. (ISBN-13: 978-1133936770)</p> <p>2- Frankfort-Nachmias, Chava; Nachmias, David. Research Methods in the Social Sciences, 6th Edition.</p>				
Teaching Methods and Techniques	<p>This course focuses on formulating questions, selecting analytical methods, developing conclusions and recommendations, and understanding the use of appropriate research methodologies in public administration and political science. The course demonstrates the application of the following to both practical professional analysis and scholarly inquiry: the exploration of the relevant scholarly and professional literature, the design of research approaches, the utilization of various quantitative and qualitative research methods and techniques; the collection, manipulation, interpretation, and representation of data gathered; and the use of information thus obtained in the solution of policy problems confronting professional administrators and politicians.</p>				
Course Learning Outcomes	1	Distinguish between the major research paradigms (e.g., positivism, interpretivism) and explain their influence on the formulation of social science research questions.			
	2	Design a feasible social science research project by formulating a research question, conducting a scholarly literature review, and developing a coherent research proposal.			
	3	Differentiate between conceptualization, operationalization, and measurement, and construct valid and reliable measures for key social science concepts.			
	4	Compare and contrast the primary data collection techniques (e.g., surveys, experiments, field research, content analysis) and select the most appropriate method for a given research problem.			
	5	Design a structured survey questionnaire, applying best practices for question wording, sequencing, and layout to minimize bias and maximize response quality.			
	6	Explain the logic of causation, the criteria for establishing causal relationships, and the ethical obligations of social scientists in conducting research with human subjects.			
	7	Interpret basic univariate and bivariate data analysis, and critically evaluate the			

		methodology and claims presented in published social science research.
Program Outcomes Contributed by the Course	Program Outcomes (PO)	
	1	Critical Analysis of Research: Graduates will be able to critically evaluate the methodological rigor, evidence, and conclusions in political science and public administration research, policy reports, and public claims.
	2	Research Design and Execution: Graduates will be able to design and execute a systematic research project, including formulating a research question, selecting an appropriate methodological approach, and applying ethical principles.
	3	Quantitative and Qualitative Literacy: Graduates will be able to interpret and utilize both quantitative (e.g., surveys, statistics) and qualitative (e.g., case studies, interviews) data to inform arguments and policy decisions.
	4	Theoretical and Conceptual Application: Graduates will be able to conceptualize and operationalize abstract political and administrative concepts (e.g., democracy, efficiency, equity) into measurable and researchable terms.
	5	Evidence-Based Argumentation: Graduates will be able to construct and articulate logical, well-reasoned, and evidence-based arguments in both written and oral forms, distinguishing between correlation and causation.
	6	Policy and Program Evaluation: Graduates will be able to assess the effectiveness and impact of public policies and government programs by understanding and applying principles of evaluation research.
	7	Ethical Reasoning in Research and Practice: Graduates will be able to identify and analyze ethical dilemmas in political and administrative research and practice, including issues of confidentiality, consent, and integrity in the use of data.
Contribution of the Course to Field Instruction		
Topics Covered in the Course	1. Week	Introduction to the course Human Inquiry and Science
	2. Week	Paradigms, Theory, and Research
	3. Week	The Ethics and Politics of Social Research
	4. Week	Research Design
	5. Week	Conceptualization, Operationalization, and Measurement
	6. Week	Indexes, Scales, and Typologies
	7. Week	The Logic of Sampling/ Experiments
	8. Week	Midterm
	9. Week	Survey Research
	10. Week	Qualitative Field Research
	11. Week	Unobtrusive Research
	12. Week	Evaluation Research
	13. Week	Qualitative Data Analysis
	14. Week	Quantitative Data Analysis
	15. Week	Reading and Writing Social Research

Course Evaluation Criteria	In-Term Studies	Quantity	Percentage %
	Mid-terms	1	% 40
	Quizzes		%
	Assignments		%
	Attendance	yes	%
	Practice		%
	Project		%
	Final examination	1	% 60
	Total	100	100%
Disability Policy	<p>If you have a documented disability (e.g., visual, hearing, or physical impairment, etc.) that may influence your performance in this course, it is recommended to meet with the Engelsiz AYBU (https://aybu.edu.tr/engelsiz/content_list-327-yildirim-beyazit-universitesi-engelsiz-universite-birimi-yonergesi.html) to arrange for reasonable conditions (such as accommodation, etc.) to ensure an equitable opportunity to meet all the requirements of this course. You may also contact the local authority of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. You should communicate your needs to the course instructor as soon as possible to ensure that any course needs concerning exams, lecture materials, etc. are met.</p>		