

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
The Faculty of Social Sciences
The European Forum and The Department of International Relations

Research Methods in the Study of Europe and Germany (54699)

Lecturer: Dr. Daniel F. Wajner

Year 2024-2025 (תשפ"ה), 1st semester, Wed. 1630-1800 (Room 6205 European Forum).

Reception hours: Tuesday, 14:00-15:00 (by appointment), Room 6217 European Forum

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Guidelines for Research Proposal Assignment

General Instructions

Students are requested to submit a research proposal based on the contents studied during the course. This assignment is expected to help expose students to research and prepare them to plan their own independent scientific research, while recognizing the challenges and opportunities.

The length of the work should be **between 1,500 and 2,000 typed words (between 4 and 6 pages approximately)**, in legible font, double spaced. In case of doubts about the task or the stages defined below, it is possible, and even advisable, to consult them with the lecturer.

Works must be **submitted no later than Wednesday, 12/2/2025**. Assignments received after that date will account as late unless the student has received special written permission for the lecturer. Assignments turned in late will be reduced by five points for each week late. Papers not submitted within one month of the specified date will not be reviewed or graded.

As defined in the syllabus, **the weight of the work in the final grade is 30% and of the presentation in class is 30%**. You can file an appeal about the work grade within a week of receiving it. Requests to review the grade will be in writing and will include the reasoning for the appeal request. The result of the review of the assignments can lead to the addition, reduction, or not modification of the original grade.

Description

You must write a research proposal (not the research itself!), including its rational ("puzzle"), research question(s), hypotheses, research design, methodology, and expected contribution. All this, in reference to the previous assignments and the theoretical discussions presented in the course.

For the writing of the research proposal, you can use the reading material for the course. At least five sources must be cited in the body of the work and include them in the bibliographic list. You can use different citation methods. If you are not sure how and when to cite sources, do not hesitate to ask.

The research proposal should include the following items:

- 1) *Rational* - A brief description of the topic to be analyzed: what happened and why is it important?
- 2) *Research question(s)* - A research question regarding the policy adopted by the selected actor.
- 3) *Hypotheses* - based on a theoretical justification for each hypothesis.
- 4) *Research design* - details on the framework for the implementation of the investigation.
- 5) *Methodology* - selected strategies to answer the questions /verify hypotheses
- 6) *Expected contribution* - projected results, theoretical or policy-oriented implications, further research.
- 7) *Schedule of research* - a brief explanation of the planned continuation of the work.
- 7) *References* - five bibliographic items that are relevant to the specific topic chosen.

Presentation of the draft research proposal

The research proposal must be presented orally during the last two lessons and will be discussed in class. Emphasis should be placed on the decisions already made in each of the points as well as the doubts that arose as part of the drafting process.