Project seminar

1. Course Description
   a. Title of a Course: “Project seminar”
   b. Pre-requisites: For the development of the discipline students must have basic knowledge in political science, qualitative and quantitative methods of analysis
   c. Course Type: compulsory
   d. Abstract

   The course intends to familiarize students with the study and practical mastering of ways of methodological approximation of qualitative and quantitative methods of analysis in modern political science. It is designed as a review of theoretical foundations followed by a practical component in the form of preparation of group projects and presentations by students. The practical part of the course is based on qualitative and quantitative content analysis strategies, as well as a method of qualitative comparative analysis (QCA), which involves establishing a connection between a set of conditions and a set of results (responses) of certain processes. This allows one to correlate the impact of various factors (socio-political background, conditions, remote and immediate causes, triggers, etc.) on various political events, in particular protest actions, anti-government demonstrations, etc.

2. Learning Objectives

   The goal of the project is to gain experience in selecting the appropriate strategy and design for the analysis, as well as the skills of applying qualitative and quantitative content analysis strategies and the method of qualitative comparative analysis in modern political science. The course also aims at acquainting students with main theories and practical applicability of alternative qualitative and quantitative methods of analysis and advancing their skills of research design, project work and presentation.

3. Learning Outcomes

   Participation in the course will help students to:
   - acquire knowledge on the opportunities of using combined qualitative and quantitative methods in political research,
- achieve the ability to choose a strategy suitable for a particular research;
- get skills of using content analysis and qualitative comparative analysis in their different variations;
- gather material for improving the choice of research strategy;
- get experience of project work and research results presentation.

4. Course Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section title</th>
<th>Classroom hours</th>
<th>Project work</th>
<th>Self-study</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Qualitative vs. quantitative methods in modern social and political science</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Qualitative comparative analysis</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Applying QCA in social and political science research</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Content analysis as a data processing method in social science.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Applying content analysis in social and political science research</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Theme 1. Qualitative vs. quantitative methods in modern social and political science**

Factors on which the choice of strategy and research methods depends: topic, number of cases, sample size, etc.

Qualitative and quantitative models: strengths and weaknesses.

Combinatorics. Configurational Comparative Methods

**Readings (required)**

**Theme 2. Qualitative comparative analysis**

Qualitative comparative analysis (QCA) as a method of social and political research.

CsQCA, fsQCA, mvQCA

Areas in which such an analysis tool can be applied

Case-study. QCA analysis of the Arab spring

**Readings (required)**


**Theme 3. Applying QCA in social and political science research**

Justification of the choice of cases, variables and chronological framework for the design study.

Discussion on the effectiveness of the QCA model and its applicability in a broader context.

**Theme 4. Content analysis as a data processing method in social science**

Qualitative content analysis: general approach.

Quantitative content analysis: general approaches and techniques.

**Readings (required)**


**Additional reading**


Theme 5. Applying content analysis in social and political science research
The choose of content analysis strategy, materials and codes for the analysis. Discussion on the effectiveness of the QCA model and its applicability in a broader context.

5. Reading List
   a. Required

b. Optional
6. Grading System

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of activity</th>
<th>Contribution, %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class attendance</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project work</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final presentation</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total grade</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. Methods of Instruction

Lectures, master classes, self-study and project work. In the framework of the course it is also planned to hold consultations and seminars on topics and methods of research chosen by students.

8. Special Equipment and Software Support (if required)

Equipment necessary for powerpoint presentations, Internet access.