Course syllabus «Research Workshop»

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Number of credits	2+2
Contact hours	28+28
Self-study hours	48+48
Course	1 (1. & 2. Semester)
Educational format	Without use of online course

I.   Aim, Results of Mastering the Discipline and Prequisites

The program of the course builds up the minimum requirements to the knowledge and skills of a student and determines the content and types of classes and assessment. The program is designed for teachers of this discipline, learning assistants and students of sociology ("International Master in Comparative Social Research").

As the result of this course a student has to:
- know the key approaches of research design in respect to the research goals
- be able to develop research design and conduct their own research in comparative perspective.
- acquire competences and professional skills to conduct high quality research according to the standards of academic practice
- be able to review literature effectively and do critical reading and writing
- know the standards of professional scientific ethics
- understand the article and book publication processes
- understand the academic job market
- be able to present their research question and results
- be able to participate in an academic discussion
- to design their master thesis
- to prepare an article
- write, present and defend the MA thesis.

The current discipline relates to humanitarian disciplines preparing masters students in sociology. The discipline is a compulsory course for MA students of Comparative Social

Research.

The course is based on the following previously covered courses:
- Sociology
- Statistics
- Methods in social studies
- BA Research seminar
- Data analysis

The basics of this discipline should be used in the following courses and activities:
- Master thesis writing
- Public policy analysis
- Comparative sociology
- Applied social research

The course is strongly related and complementary to other compulsory courses provided in the first year (e.g. Quantitative Methods, Qualitative Methods) and sets a crucial prerequisite for later courses and research projects as well as for the master thesis. The course takes place during the whole MA two years program, giving students an important foundation to develop and conduct their own research as well as to evaluate research of others.

II. Content of the Course

The course aims at providing students with a thorough understanding of the central components of (1) research design, development of a well-structured research project and proposal, and (2) professional social scientific research ethics, the article and book publication processes, the academic job market. The course will thereby specifically address the core aspects of (1) „Research Design" and (2) „Academic Practice". The received knowledge and skills would be of high importance and value for those students aimed at entering the international academia as well as for those aiming at the international research organizations and consultancy companies.

Research Design (1. year, 1. semester)

Session	Topic
1	Introduction to the course Research approach: how to select. Goal and design correspondence
2	Research approach: how to select. Case selection. Literature review: focused review, citation, handling references, search for literature
3	Literature review: critical reflection and puzzles setting Use of theory: comparative studies for different research designs

4	Writing a proposal: rules of thumb Designing Research: quantitative, qualitative, mixed
5	Purpose statement Research questions and hypotheses
6	Data and methods: quantitative surveys Data and methods: qualitative surveys
7	Data and methods: mixed methods Feedback and evaluation

Academic Practice (1. Year, 2. semester)

Session	Topic
1	- Introduction
2	- Presentation of internship possibility I - Ethics of research & publishing
3	- Doing original research that generates interest and answers the question of, "So What?" - Framing research questions and problem statements to specific audience types
4	- Presentation of internship possibility II
5	- How to Search for and Read Relevant Research Articles - The Peer Review Process
6	- How to Present Research in Public - Interdisciplinarity
7	- Preparing research internship and term papers
8	- Practical guides for graduate students in managing the dissertation process

III.   Grading

Research Design (1. Semester/ 1. Study Year)

The final grade consists of:
    1) Class participation and discussion (20%)
    2) Critical reflections and peer-review (30%)
    3) Final research proposal (50%)

Academic Practice (2. Semester/ 1. Study Year)

The final grade consists of:
    1) Class participation and discussion (20%)

2) Class presentation (20%)
3) Review of Research Article (20%)
4) MA Thesis Research Proposal (40%)

Rounding the final grades:
If the final grade is non-integer, it is rounded according to algebraic rules. If has a half (.5) at the end, we are rounding upward.

IV.   Grading Tools

Research Design (1. Semester/ 1. Study Year)

Task explanation:

1) <u>Class participation and discussion</u>: Students are expected to discuss all of the assigned readings on the due date and to participate in in-class discussions and projects. During each class selected participants will informally present their research ideas to the class for general discussion with constructive criticism. Details will be discussed in class. Students who fail to attend at least 25% of the classes may receive additional assignments.

2) <u>Critical reflection abstracts</u>: each student is expected to write 1-2 paragraphs critical reflection abstracts (maximum of 200 words) on 2 provided articles. In these critical reflection abstracts the students are expected to demonstrate their ability of critical thinking and analysis of the research design points, specifying the advantages and disadvantages of the design.

3) <u>Peer review</u> is a one-page critical reflection on their peer's research proposal. Students are to submit 2 reviews on their peer's proposal.

4) <u>Research Proposals</u>: every student has to write 3 research proposals of 1-3 pages (1.5-spaced) where a student should work out a focused research problem; develop his own research design to tackle the raised question. Deadline for the research proposals is <u>before the start of session 2, 3 and 4</u>.

Academic Practice (2. Semester/ 1. Study Year)

Task explanation:

1) <u>Class participation</u>: Students are expected to discuss all of the assigned readings on the due date and to participate in in-class discussions and projects. During each class selected participants will informally present their research ideas to the class for general discussion with constructive criticism. Details will be discussed in class. Students who fail to attend at least 25% of the classes may receive additional assignments.

2) <u>Class Presentation</u>: Every student will be assigned one time to present and discuss one or several texts during a session (the assignment will be made in the week before).

3) <u>Review of a Research Article</u>: Students are to write a two-page (single spaced) review of a research article. Details will be discussed in class. Submission is due before session 3

4) <u>MA Thesis Research Proposal</u>: Students write a full proposal for their MA thesis research project (ca. 10-15 pages, 1.5 spaced). for the final research proposal is one week before the last session. Details will be discussed in class.

V.   Sources

5.1 Main Literature

Geddes, Barbara, 2003: Paradigms and Sand Castles: Theory Building and Research Design in Comparative Politics. University of Michigan Press URL https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/hselibrary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=3414772 Proquest

Sreejesh, S. & Sanjay Mohapatra, 2014: Mixed Method Research Design. URL https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007%2F978-3-319-02687-9#authorsandaffiliationsbook Springer

Bechhofer, Frank and Lindsay Paterson, 2000: Principles of Research Design in the Social Sciences. Routledge URL https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/hselibrary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=166041 Proquest

Bjork, Bo-Christer and Jonas Holmstrom. 2006. "Benchmarking Scientific Journals from the Submitting Author's Viewpoint." Learned Publishing 19: 147-155. URL https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1087/095315106776387002 Wiley

Polsky, Andrew J. 2007. "Seeing Your Name in Print: Unpacking the Mysteries of the Review Process at Political Science Scholarly Journals." PS: Political Science and Politics 40 (3): 539-43. URL https://www.jstor.org/stable/20452009?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents Jstor

Smith, David T and Rob Salmond. 2011. "Verbal Sticks and Rhetorical Stones: Improving Conference Presentations in Political Science." PS: Political Science and Politics July: 583 – 588. URL https://www.jstor.org/stable/41319775?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents Jstor

Additional Literature

Jacobs, Jerry A. and Scott Frickel. 2009. "Interdisciplinarity: A Critical Assessment." Annual Review of Sociology 35:43-65. URL https://www.annualreviews.org/doi/10.1146/annurev-soc-070308-115954 Annual Reviews

Fujii, Lee Ann. 2012. "Research Ethics 101: Dilemmas and Responsibilities." PS: Political Science and Politics October: 717 – 723. URL https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/ps-political-science-and-politics/article/research-ethics-101-dilemmas-and-responsibilities/90D5442392CD0716F04E764939054FF7# Cambridge Core

Guetzkow, Joshua, Michèle Lamont and Grégoire Mallard. 2004. "What Is Originality in the Humanities and the Social Sciences?" American Sociological Review 69(2): 190-212. URL https://www.jstor.org/stable/3593084#metadata_info_tab_contents Jstor

Davis, Murray S. 1971. "That's Interesting: Towards a Phenomenology of Sociology and a Sociology of Phenomenology." Philosophy of the Social Sciences 1(4): 309-344. URL https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/004839317100100211 Sage

5.2 Software

№ п/п	Name	Access conditions
1.	MicrosoftWindows 7 Professional RUS MicrosoftWindows 10 MicrosoftWindows 8.1 Professional RUS	*From the university's internal network (contract)*
2.	Microsoft Office Professional Plus 2010	*From the university's internal network (contract)*

5.3. Professional databases and reference systems. Internet resources (electronic educational resources)

№	Name	Access conditions
	Professional databases and reference systems	
1.	Consultant Plus	*From the university's internal network (contract)*
2.	URAIT Electronic library system	URL: https://biblio-online.ru/
	Internet resources (electronic educational resources)	
1.	Open Education	URL: https://openedu.ru/

5.4 Material and technical support

Classrooms for lectures on the discipline provide for the use and demonstration of thematic illustrations corresponding to the program of the discipline, consisting of:
- PC with Internet access (operating system, office software, antivirus software);
- multimedia projector with remote control.