

УТВЕРЖДЕНО
ученым советом НИУ ВШЭ
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Приложение 2

к Положению о программе учебной дисциплины образовательных программ высшего образования – программ бакалавриата, специалитета, магистратуры НИУ ВШЭ

Model form

*Approved by the Academic council
of the Education programme*

Protocol No. ____ from __. __. 20__

Syllabus

Theory and Methodology in Political Research
(N ECTS)

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Meeting Minute # ____ dated _____ 20__

1. Course Description

This discipline is one of the general disciplines for the program. This discipline is the basic one for specialization "Political Analysis and Public Policy". The main propositions of the discipline to be used later in the study the following subjects:

Quantitative and qualitative methods of Public Policy

Foundation for Public Policy

Comparative Public Policy

Comparative Defence and Security Policy

Research Seminar

Research Projects

a) Abstract

The course does cover a range of topics, starting from the formulation of research topics and research questions; the tools and the paradigms that helps in the development of research and the analysis of political concepts. It then turns to the notions of principles and theories, as distinct from concepts, and reviews the methodologies of assessing such principles and theories, for the purpose of justifying or criticizing them. Finally, it looks at a recent debate on how abstract and idealized political theory should be, and assesses the significance of disagreement in political theory.

Learning Objectives - In this course, students should develop a taste for criticism: that does, not believe things written only because they have been published, but in evaluating the evidence presented; in being sceptical, yet fair.

This last skill will be most appreciated when you begin to design your own research projects in this course and in later years. For now, much of the focus is on criticism and on developing the skills to distinguish convincing from unconvincing research projects. We will discuss some aspects of philosophy of science, notably questions of the nature of “proof” and evidence in science, but mostly we will learn by doing. The objectives of the course "Theory and Methodology of Political Research" are:

- ✓ To gain knowledge of the field of political theory and the public policy theory
- ✓ To acquire skills and abilities of the "fundamental" and applied policy research

By knowing-

- ✓ How do students at the Masters level in political science and in related fields convincingly develop their arguments based on the validity of their theories ?
- ✓ How can the reader distinguish between convincing and unconvincing research?
- ✓ How can one design one’s own research so that it is as convincing as possible?

Learning Outcomes

Having mastered the course, the students are expected

The students shall -

- ✓ Know the basics of political theory, the basic concepts of public policy (government, public policy and the public sphere, the state, democracy, civil society), the theoretical and methodological approaches to political research, methodology of public policy analysis
- ✓ Be able to apply the concepts and methods of political research in the applied areas of public policy analysis

2. Be able to:

Students shall be in the position to answer the following questions –

- ✓ What is the author’s argument or theory, and how does it compare to alternative theories that might be proposed or have been proposed by others?
- ✓ What is the right selection of conceptual frameworks or theoretical framework that guides the research project in the best feasible manner.
- ✓ What evidence does the author provide, and how convincing is it?
- ✓ How could the research be improved?

3. To obtain skills to:

Show knowledge of the basic scientific approaches and methods of social Sciences Figure out the main scientific approaches and methods of Political and Policy Sciences. Evaluate the applicability of the scientific approaches and methods of social Sciences fo specific research tasks

- Define available in the scientific literature original approaches to conceptualization of the basic concepts of political theory and public policy
- Trace Genesis of the basic concepts of political theory and public policy
Give definitions of the main concepts of political theory and public policy
- Define data collection and analysis methods various branches of social science, their advantages and disadvantages
- Evaluate the applicability of the methods of collection and analysis of data of different branches of social science to the solution of specific research objectives.

Methodological guidelines for students

The course is a combination of lectures and seminars, group discussions and individual work of students. Students are encouraged to use information technologies to prepare for classes. Student also needs to be included in the information context of political events and situations in Russia and abroad. Students are welcomed to state their own opinions and evaluations about the political events and policies.

4. Course Plan

№	Topic	Total hours	Contact hours			Independent students' work
			Lectures	Seminars	Training	
1	The Logic of Scientific Discovery. The Problem of Induction,					

№	Topic	Total hours	Contact hours			Independent students
			Lectures	Seminars	Training	
	Demarcation. Falsifiability.,Paradigm., Scientific Research Program. Hermeneutics and Phenomenology					
2	<p>a. <i>What is a theory Political theory and political science- theory and moral philosophy, Political theory and legal theory, Political theory and normative economics- Axiomatizability, Parsimony:</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>What is a concept? Political theory and social ontology, Theory and political philosophy, Concepts in political theory, Concepts and conceptions</i></p>				-	
3	<p>Science ‘before Positivism’. Conceptual Analysis Epistemological Foundations. Historical, Legal, Institutional approaches.. Political History, Political Philosophy, Comparative Politics. Political Psychology</p> <p>-----</p> <p>The Logic of Social and Political Research. The research process: the main stages. Academic and applied political research. . Conceptualization (formulation of the theory.)</p>				-	

№	Topic	Total hours	Contact hours			Independent students
			Lectures	Seminars	Training	
	<p>Operationalization of Theory</p> <p>-----</p> <p>A broad overview of Epistemological Foundations, Methodological Approaches, and Methods of Social Sciences. Choice of epistemological foundation, theoretical and methodological approach of the study.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Comparative. Principles of comparative study. The countries were selected for the study. Identification of parameters for comparison.</p> <p>Institutional. Behavioral. Systemic. Structural and functional. Rational choice theory and neoinstitutionalism. Socio-constructivist.</p>					
4	<p>Hermeneutic. The importance of knowing the context. "Hermeneutic circle" and "motion screw." Modes of interpretation: a «let it pass" method, the method of "filling in", "unless" method, retrospective-prospective interpretation, "the use of" normal form "as a pattern of interpretation, interpretation of irregularities as information. The problem of</p>			-		

№	Topic	Total hours	Contact hours			Independent students
			Lectures	Seminars	Training	
	<p>termination of rotation of the "hermeneutic screw."</p> <hr/> <p>Communication. Subject-institutional approach to the analysis of the political process. Political actors, and agents - what's the difference?, the importance of distinguishing between political actors, forms of activity, positions and strategies of the political actors, "the actor immersion in environment" - what it means for a political analyst?, types of institutional environments and their impact on behavioral models, strategies and identities of political actors.</p>					
5	<hr/> <p>a. Review of political research epistemological foundation. Idealism, Marxism, Freudianism, positivism</p> <hr/> <p>b. Neo-Marxism, post-positivism, structuralism and post-structuralism, post-modernism. Rational choice theory and neo-</p>			-		

№	Topic	Total hours	Contact hours			Independent students
			Lectures	Seminars	Training	
	<p>institutionalism.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>-----</p> <p>c. Socio-constructivist. Hermeneutic. Subject institutional approach to the analysis of the political process. (Post-) Positivism: ‘hard’ laws and methods in social sciences Approaches: Behaviorism, System approach, Structural functionalism;</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Phenomenological Sociology, Ethno methodology, Theory of rational choice, Neo-institutionalism.</p> <p>Mid Term</p> <hr/>					
6	(Post-) Structuralism and Discourse Analysis Approaches: Social constructivism, Hermeneutic; Communicational, Feminism..				-	
7	Interpretive and Policy Analysis Methods. Approaches: Structural constructivism, Actors Centred. Methods: Case studies, Event analysis, Situational analysis, Impact Analysis, Policy Analysis.				-	

№	Topic	Total hours	Contact hours			Independent students
			Lectures	Seminars	Training	
	Event analysis. The concept of "event". Stages of event analysis. Auxiliary operations in event analysis. Situational analysis. The concept of the "situation." Stages of a situation analysis.					
8	<p>.Democracy and Governance</p> <p>Regulatory and procedural definitions of democracy. Stereotypes of political discourse and democracy. Factors (causes) of democratization. "Semi-democracy":</p> <p>Definitions and meanings. Democracy, regime types old and Plato, Aristotle, Montesquieu, individual liberty and Theories of justice (justice as a social contract, justice as impartiality, distributive justice, reconciliation and restorative justice, and retributive justice (negative and positive liberty</p> <p>B Governance</p> <p>Traditions of study governance in different social disciplines: Developmental Studies. Legal Theory, Urban Studies, International Relations,</p>				-	

№	Topic	Total hours	Contact hours			Independent students
			Lectures	Seminars	Training	
	<p>Economics.</p> <p>Approaches to governance conceptualization: State-Limited governing, Multilevel governing, Multilateral Governing, and Participatory Governing.</p> <p>Dimensions of Governance.</p> <p>Indices of Governance. Neo-liberalism and its effect on governance.</p> <p>Historical accounts of governance and governance and empire</p>					
9	<p>Political power: the concept, the basic forms, methods of research basic methodological approaches. Charles Mills “Power Elite”. Positional approach. Floyd Hunter’s study of Atlanta. Reputational method. Robert Dahl’s study of New Haven. Decision-making approach. Network analysis as a method of studying power Actual/potential problem. Intentionality of power.</p> <p>Outcome of power. Outcome of power: power to vs power over. Interests and power. Asymmetry of power. Agency, structure and power. Two traditions in defining power. Weberian tradition in</p>				-	

№	Topic	Total hours	Contact hours			Independent students
			Lectures	Seminars	Training	
	defining power. Debates over the nature and “faces” of power					
10	Recap of the theoretical and conceptual study				-	
11	Final Examination					
	Total for the 2nd year				-	

Reading List

Required Reading

1. Political Theory : Methods and Approaches, edited by David Leopold, and Marc Stears, Oxford University Press USA - OSO, 2008. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/hselibrary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=415667>.
2. Making Political Science Matter : Debating Knowledge, Research, and Method, edited by Sanford F. Schram, and Brian Caterino, New York University Press, 2006. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/hselibraryebooks/detail.action?docID=2081670>.
3. Heck, Ronald H.. Studying Educational and Social Policy : Theoretical Concepts and Research Methods, Routledge, 2004. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/hselibrary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=234242>.

Additional Reading

1. Schram, S. F., & Caterino, B. (Eds.). (2006). *Making political science matter : Debating knowledge, research, and method*. Retrieved from <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com>
2. Ramazanoglu, C., & Holland, J. (2002). *Feminist methodology : Challenges and choices*. Retrieved from <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com>
- 3.

Grading System

Grading Professor assesses both students' work in class and individual students' work. Work in class: students' activity in discussions on the results of the reading of required literature, and reports on the results of the reading of additional literature. Professor puts marks for the work in class in the work statement.

Accumulated score from 10-point scale for the work in class defined before the intermediate or final control Essay Paper - no less than 5,000 symbols. Accumulated score from 10-point scale for essay is determined before the final control

.The approximation method for the current, cumulative, and final grade is arithmetic. On re-take the student is not given the opportunity to receive an additional point for the assessment of compensation for the current control. At the exam the student may receive an additional question (for more practical problem to solve, to retake the homework), the answer to which is valued at 1 point.

Cumulative grade for current work formula is:

$$G_{final} = 0,7 G_{cumulative} + 0,3 G_{exam}$$

Where

$$C_{umulative} = 0,2 \text{ active participation and presence in the class} + 0,3 \text{ Mid term examination} + 0,2 \text{ Group presentation and participation in the Project work} + 0,3 \text{ Final paper}$$

Course Grade Criteria

Continuing assessment consists of grading students' regular class participation and active presence, the home assignment, midterm exam and the final paper and group presentation.

- their knowledge of required readings and their acquaintance with at least some of the recommended readings;
- their ability to collect information on a particular topic independently;
- their ability to analyze and generalize the collected information and data;
- their ability to present their material, point of view and arguments;
- their ability to participate in a group discussion
- their ability to discuss other students' work

1. Please make sure that your papers make an argument and are analytical (that is, discuss several important themes using specific examples from the readings); purely descriptive papers will receive lower grades.
2. All papers should be emailed to me by the beginning of class for which it is due, unless another due date and time has been given. No hard copies of any written

work need to be turned in unless requested. Unless you have made arrangements with me beforehand, **late assignments will be penalized one letter grade per day they are late**, particularly when papers are related to the discussion that will take place in class that day.

3. **Please note:** *Plagiarism or cheating of any kind will not be tolerated. If you borrow ideas, writings, etc., from other people and do not give them credit, the assignment will be given an automatic zero, and you will most likely be given a NC in the class.*

Cumulative grade for current work formula is:

$$G_{final} = 0,7 G_{cumulative} + 0,3 G_{exam}$$

where

$$C_{cumulative} = 0,2 \text{ active participation and presence in the class} + 0,3 \text{ Mid term examination} + 0,2 \text{ Group presentation and participation in the Project work} + 0,3 \text{ Final paper}$$

The discipline is taught during two modules and there is an active and evolving evaluation where active and competent participation at tutorials coupled with the home work is an important contributing factor to the final grades. It is to be noted that the students having less than 80 percent of attendance shall have to give the additional test on the thematic that are taught in the class.

5. Examination Type

Both Mid-term and the final exam will be held in the form of presentation based on the content of student's final essay

6. Methods of Instruction

The course is built upon the combination of modern educational techniques. It combines active and interactive forms of teaching. It relies more on discussion and group work besides the conventional lecturing.

So the students are supposed to actively participate in the in-class group work. They are also expected to do their homework and additional reading.

7. Special Equipment and Software Support (if required)

The course requires a computer (laptop) and projector for Power Point presentations.