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,
4. Course Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Section title</th>
<th>Classroom hours</th>
<th>Project work</th>
<th>Self-study</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Qualitative vs. quantitative methods in modern social and political science</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Basics of academic writing in empirical research projects</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Data collection and field research</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Qualitative comparative analysis and applying of QCA in social and political science research</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Content analysis as a data processing method in social science</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>36</td>
<td></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.
Combinatorics. Configurational Comparative Methods. Qualitative Comparative Analysis.
Contents Analysis.

Readings (required)

Theme 2. Basics of academic writing in empirical research projects
The choice of purpose, audience and style of academic paper.
Main semantic blocks of the text, the logic and coherence of the study.
Research designs.
Building an academic text: research question, the novelty of the study, hypotheses, literature review models, the rationale for the choice of methods, variables, the chronological framework of the study, interpretation of the results, etc.
References. Citation styles. Journals’ guidelines.
Presentation skills.

Readings (required)
• Turabian, Kate L. A manual for writers of research papers, theses, and dissertations: Chicago style for students and researchers. University of Chicago Press, 2013.

Theme 3. Data collection and field research.
Conducting field research.
Data collection and field research techniques: direct observation, interviews, analysis of documents and other information, overt observation, experiments, etc.
Qualitative and quantitative aspects of field research.

Readings (required)

Theme 4. Qualitative comparative analysis and applying of QCA in social and political science research
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
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.
Case-study. QCA analysis of the Arab spring

Readings (required)

Theme 5. Content analysis as a data processing method in social science
Qualitative content analysis: general approach.
Quantitative content analysis: general approaches and techniques.
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.

Readings (required)
• Zhang, Y., & Wildemuth, B. M. (2016). Qualitative analysis of content. Applications of social research methods to questions in information and library science.
Additional reading


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>Activity at seminars</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project work (mid-term evaluation)</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final presentation and text</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total grade:</strong></td>
<td><strong>10</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Work on research projects is performed in groups, however, each participant of the course receives a separate assessment depending on the contribution to the joint work, the final presentation and text, as well as activity in discussing colleagues' projects at seminars.
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.