



## COURSE UNIT DESCRIPTION

Course unit title	Code
Search and Research: Methods and Approaches in Political Science	

Lecturer(s)	Department, Faculty
<b>Coordinating:</b> assist. Vilius Mačkinis	Institute of International Relations and Political Science

Study cycle	Type of the course unit
Second	Obligatory

Mode of delivery	Semester or period when it is delivered	Language of instruction
Face to face	1	English

Requisites	
<b>Prerequisites:</b> English language skills (B2)	<b>Co-requisites (if relevant):</b> None

Number of ECTS credits allocated	Student's workload (total)	Contact hours	Individual work
5	140	32	108

Purpose of the course unit: programme competences to be developed		
<p>The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the ways of doing scholarly research and provide critical overview of the epistemological and methodological debates in social science research. Strengthen the analytical and research skills that will enable students to raise questions and use methodology in order to find required answers in the field of social sciences and regional studies.</p> <p>This course aims to develop a set of generic competences such as the ability to work and study independently and in a team, to apply theoretical knowledge in practice, the ability to share information, ideas, initiative and seek of quality in results. This course also aims to develop a set of subject specific competences such as the ability to apply theoretical instruments of the social sciences, to form the design of the research, the ability to compare and apply different research methods for the analysis of various empirical political questions related with the Eastern European and Russian societies.</p>		
Learning outcomes of the course unit	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods
Will understand and will be able to compare various assumptions for applying research methods of social sciences.	Reading of the literature, lectures, discussions, case studies.	Assessment of work during the seminars.
Will be able to apply theoretical knowledge in social science researches, form problematic questions, apply adequate research methods and provide justified answers.	Discussions, case studies, independent studying, preparation of the final master thesis project.	Assessment of work during the seminars, the final master thesis project.
Will be able to participate in methodological	Reading of the literature,	Assessment of the final

discussions, independently and systematically analyse and gather information	preparation of the final master thesis project.	master thesis project.
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Course content: breakdown of the topics	Contact hours				Individual work: time and assignments	
	Lectures	Tutorials	Seminars	Contact hours, total	Individual work	Assignments
1. Introduction. Course subject, objectives, work rules and requirements. What does Lisa Simpson teach us?	2			2	-	-
2. Region? Why region?	2		2	2	4	Compulsory readings and analysis of the texts: Ellen Comisso and Brad Gutierrez, „Eastern Europe or Central Europe? Exploring a Distinct Regional Identity“ in Szanton, David L. (2002). The Politics of Knowledge: Area Studies and the Disciplines Location: Global, Area, and International Archive. UCIAS Edited Volumes
3. Many ways of knowing	2		2	2	6	Compulsory readings and analysis of the texts: Michael Crotty, "Intro: the Research Process" in The Foundations of Social Research, London: Sage, 1998, p. 1-17. Bates, S.R. and L. Jenkins (2007), Teaching and Learning Ontology and Epistemology in Political Science, „Politics“, 27(1), pp. 55–63. Hay, C. (2007), “Does Ontology Trump Epistemology? Notes on the Directional Dependence of Ontology and Epistemology in Political Analysis”. Politics, 27, pp.115–118.
4. Many ways of knowing II: Research design	2		2	4	4	-
5. Quantitative methods						Compulsory readings and analysis of the texts: Bryman, Alan, Social research methods, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008, pp. 140-162.
6. Comparative method			2	2	4	Compulsory readings and analysis of the texts:

						<p>Lijphart, Arend (2008). „Comparative politics and the comparative method“ in Lijphart, Arend. Thinking about Democracy: Power Sharing and Majority Rule in Theory and Practice. London: Routledge. pp. 245-265.</p> <p>Hall, Peter A. (2003). „Aligning Ontology and Methodology in Comparative Politics“ in Mahoney, James ir Dietrich Rueschmeyer (eds.). Comparative Historical Analysis in the Social Sciences. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 373-404.</p>
7. Process Tracing			2	2	4	<p>Compulsory readings and analysis of the texts:</p> <p>Forthcoming in Andrew Bennett and Jeffrey T. Checkel, Editors, Process Tracing in the Social Sciences: From Metaphor to Analytic Tool, Chapter 1, pp. 1-57.</p> <p>Collier, David. (2011) "Understanding process tracing.", Political Science &amp; Politics, 44.04, pp.823-830.</p>
8. Counterfactual Analysis			2	2	6	<p>Compulsory readings and analysis of the texts:</p> <p>Tetlock, P.E. and Belkin, A. (eds.) (1996), Counterfactual Thought Experiments in World Politics, Princeton University Press, pp. 3-38. Lebow, Richard Ned (2010) Forbidden fruit: counterfactuals and international relations. Princeton University Press, pp. 69-102.</p>
9. Discourse Analysis			2	2	4	<p>Compulsory readings and analysis of the texts:</p> <p>Ruth Wodak and Michael Meyer (eds.), „Critical Discourse Analysis: History, Agenda, Theory, and Methodology“, London: Sage, 2009, p.1-33.</p>
10. Interviewing in social sciences	2		2	2	4	<p>Compulsory readings and analysis of the texts:</p> <p>Bryman, Alan, Social research methods, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008, pp. 91-110; 182-193.</p>
11. Anthropology and Ethnography	2		2	2	4	<p>Compulsory readings and analysis of the texts:</p> <p>Alan Barnard, Visions of</p>

						Anthropology in „History and Theory in Anthropology, Cambridge: CUP, 2000, p. 1-15. <a href="http://www.anthropologiesproject.org/2011/03/what-is-anthropology.html">http://www.anthropologiesproject.org/2011/03/what-is-anthropology.html</a> „Secrets of the Tribe“, 2010, <a href="http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1567736/">http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1567736/</a>
12. Historical method and case studies			2	2	4	Compulsory readings and analysis of the texts: John Gerring, What is a Case Study and What is it Good for?, „American Political Science Review“, Volume 98, Issue 2, May 2004 p. 341-354.
13. History of ideas. Sources and resources seminar			2	2	4	Compulsory readings and analysis of the texts: Anthony Grafton (2006) “The History of Ideas: Precept and Practice, 1950-2000 and Beyond”, Journal of the History of Ideas, Vol. 67, No. 1 (Jan., 2006), pp. 1-32.
14. Content analysis and NVivo			2	2	4	-
15. Thinking about your research proposal	2		2	4	4	-
16. Writing your thesis proposal			2	2	4	Thesis writing seminar, students’ presentations
Written assignment.					30	Preparation of the written assignment.
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>		<b>32</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>98</b>	

Assessment strategy	Weight %	Deadline	Assessment criteria
Performance during seminars	30%	During semester	Active participation in discussions (10%) Quality of remarks and insights, providing relevant examples, understanding of texts (10%) Level of preparation: reading of the texts and completion of tasks (10%)
Master thesis proposal	70%	During semester	Correspondence to methodological requirements (10%) Literature review (30%) Clearness of proposal, sound methodology (30%)

Author	Publishing year	Title	Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication; pages	Publishing house or internet site
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Required readings				
Bates, S.R. and L. Jenkins	2007	Teaching and Learning Ontology and Epistemology in Political Science	Politics, 27(1), pp. 55–63.	
Benett, A. and Jeffrey T. Checkel (ed.)	2014	Process Tracing in the Social Sciences: From Metaphor to Analytic Tool	Chapter 1, pp. 1-57.	Cambridge University Press
Blamard, A.	2000	Visions of Anthropology” in History and Theory in Anthropology	pp. 1-15	Cambridge: CUP
Bryman, A.	2008	Social research methods	pp. 91-110; 149-169; 182-193	Oxford: Oxford University Press
Collier, D.	2011	Understanding process tracing	Political Science & Politics, 44.04, pp.823-830.	
Comisso, E. and Brad Gutierrez	2002	Eastern Europe or Central Europe? Exploring a Distinct Regional Identity	Szanton, David L. The Politics of Knowledge: Area Studies and the Disciplines Location: Global, Area, and International Archive	UCIAS Edited Volumes
Crott, Michael	1998	Intro: the Research Process	The Foundations of Social Research, pp. 17	London: Sage, 1998.
Domas White Marilyn, Emily E. Marsh	2006	Content Analysis a Flexible Methodology	Library trends, Vol. 55, No. 1, Summer, pp. 22–45	
Gerring John	2004	What is a Case Study and What is it Good for	American Political Science Review, Volume 98, Issue 2, May 2004 pp. 341-354.	
Grafton, A.	2006	The History of Ideas: Precept and Practice, 1950-2000 and Beyond	Journal of the History of Ideas, Vol. 67, No. 1 (Jan., 2006), pp. 1-32.	
Hall, Peter A.	2003	Aligning Ontology and Methodology in Comparative Politics	James ir Dietrich Rueschmeyer (eds.) Comparative Historical Analysis in the Social Sciences, pp. 373-404	Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
Hay, C.	2007	Does Ontology Trump Epistemology? Notes on the Directional Dependence of Ontology and Epistemology in Political Analysis	Politics, 27(1), pp.115–118.	
Lebow, Richard Ned	2010	Forbidden fruit: counterfactuals and international relations	pp. 69-102.	Princeton University Press,

Lieberman, Evan S.	2005	Nested analysis as a mixed-method strategy for comparative research	American Political Science Review; 99(03):pp. 435-452	
Lijphart, A.	2008	Thinking about Democracy: Power Sharing and Majority Rule in Theory and Practice	pp. 245-265	London: Routledge
Tetlock, P.E. and Belkin, A. (eds.)	1996	Counterfactual Thought Experiments in World Politics	pp. 3-38	Princeton University Press.
Weber, L	1998	A Conceptual Framework for Understanding Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality	Psychology of Women Quarterly, 22: pp.13–32.	
Wodak, R. and Michael Meyer (eds.),	2009	Critical Discourse Analysis: History, Agenda, Theory, and Methodology	p.1-33.	London: Sage
<b>Optional reading</b>				
Appleby, J. Lynn Hunt, and Margaret Jacob	1994	Telling the Truth about History		New York: Norton & Company
Burke, P.	1994	History and Social Theory		Oxford: Polity Press
Daniel, I. O'Neill	2012	Revisiting the Middle Way: the Logic of the History of Ideas after More than a Decade	Journal of the History of Ideas, Vol. 73, Nr. 4, October	
Fraser, N.	1985.	What's Critical about Critical Theory? The Case of Habermas and Gender	New German Critique, no. 35,	
Geertz, C.	1973	The Interpretation of Cultures,		London: Vintage
Hancke, B.	2009	Intelligent Research Design: A Guide for Beginning Researchers in the Social Sciences,		Oxford University Press, USA,
King, G., Keohane, R.O. and Verba,		Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research		Princeton: Princeton University Press
Moore, David S.	2001	Statistics: Concepts and Controversies,		W. H. Freeman and Company,
Murphy, A. B.	2009	Regions as Social	Progress in Human	

		Constructs: the Gap Between Theory and Practice	Geography vol. 15, no .1.,	
Tosh, J. (ed.), ,	2000	Historians on History		Edinburgh: Pearson Education Limited
Waever, O.	1992	Nordic Nostalgia: Northern Europe after the Cold War	International Affairs, vol. 68, no. 1	
Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams,.	2008	The Craft of Research (Chicago Guides to Writing, Editing, and Publishing),		University Of Chicago Press
Weiss, R.	1994	Learning from Strangers: The Art and Method of Qualitative Interview Studies		The Free Press
Wetherell, M., Stephanie Taylor and Simeon J. Yates	2001	Discourse Theory and Practice,		Open University Press,
Wonnacott, T.H. and Wonnacott, R.J.	1990	Introductory Statistics for Business and Economics (4th Ed.),		John Wiley & Sons