



Course Syllabus

Course Code	Course Title	ECTS Credits
IREL-258	Research Methodology in Social Sciences	6
Prerequisites	Department	Semester
None	Politics and Governance	Fall or Spring
Type of Course	Field	Language of Instruction
Core	Social Sciences	English
Level of Course	Lecturer(s)	Year of Study
1 st Cycle	Dr. Giorgos Charalambous	2 nd
Mode of Delivery	Work Placement	Corequisites
Conventional	N/A	N/A

Course Objectives:

The main objective of this course is to help students understand the main methodological guidelines, issues and debates in the social science, with particular emphasis on political science and international relations. In doing so, the course will consider the principles of scientific research, distinguish between the different types of epistemology, give examples of rigorous research and provide skills for essay preparation, bibliographic and book reviews, data collection and particular methodological techniques. In an effort to provide students with knowledge about and skills in social science methodology, the material cover both theoretical and philosophical questions and practical guidelines for the empirical investigation of social and political phenomena.

Learning Outcomes:

After completion of the course students are expected to be able to:

- Possess introductory knowledge about the philosophy of the social sciences.
- Undertake book reviews, bibliographical reviews, essay writing and research design with confidence and on the basis of the fundamental principles of social scientific research.
- Understand the main, competing methodological perspectives in the social sciences.
- Exhibit understanding of the variety of empirical methods that are used in contemporary social science research.
- Illustrate a methodological research paradigm through reference to particular studies in

- political science or international relations.
- Use the internet for the purposes of scientific research, and at the same time, acknowledge its methodological limits and potential misuse by researchers.
 - Process basic descriptive data, utilize them in research and interpret them in the context of specific research domains.
 - Address the challenges of data collection.
 - Show a basic understanding on how statistical analysis is used in the social sciences.

Course Content:

What is science? Epistemology and the social sciences
What is method and why it's important?
Principles of research
Basic ethical questions in research
Essay preparation
Bibliographical reviews
Book reviews
Research Design
Data collection: a review of techniques
Data analysis: a review of techniques
Online research: Dos and DON'T's
Basic statistical indicators
Presenting and analyzing descriptive statistics

Learning Activities and Teaching Methods:

Lectures, Discussions, Project, Presentation

Assessment Methods:

Research exercise, Book review, Mid-term exam, Final exam.

Readings:

Lauro, N.C., Amaturio, E., Grassia, M.G., Aragona, B., Marino, M. (eds.) (2017) *Data Science and Social Research: Epistemology, Methods, Technology and Applications*. Springer.

King, G., Keohane, R. O. and Verba, S. (1994) *Designing Social Inquiry*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Babbie, E. R. (2015) *The Practice of Social Research*, 13th Edition 14th Edition. Cengage Learning.

Klotz, A. and Prakash, D. (eds.) (2008). *Qualitative Methods in International Relations: A Pluralist Guide*. London: Palgrave Macmillan,

Popper, K. (1957) *The Poverty of Historicism*. London: Routledge.

Van Evera, S.. (1997) *Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science*. Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press.

DeVaus, D. (2001). *Research Design in Social Research*. London: Sage Publications.

Detlef, S. F., and Wolinsky-Nahmias, Y. (2004) *Models, Numbers, and Cases: Methods for Studying International Relations*. Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press.

Benton, T. and Craib, I. (2010) *Philosophy of Social Science: The Philosophical Foundations of Social Thought (Traditions in Social Theory)* Second Edition. London: Palgrave.

*Students will be additionally provided with 'case study examples' for particular types of research; journal articles to be uploaded on the module's online platform.