Course	METHODOLOGICAL FC	OUNDATIONS FOR	POLITICAL SC		
	Type (M)	Semester IV	ECTS 5	Code	
Course instructor Course assistant Course tutor					
Course goals and objectives	The growing importance of research methods in social sciences reflect researchers' efforts to improve the scientific accuracy of their research, and increase sharpness and usefulness of their findings. Today, research methods represent important courses for political science programs around the world.				
	There are appropriate several methods to deliver a methodology course in political science. One of those methods treats the subject as simply a researcher design training. Another one emphasizes game theory. Yet another one plunges deep in statistical methods.				
	In a narrower perspective, we will follow a behavioural path, that is, explaining individual and group behaviour. The entire course will be a group work in developing research projects. Bearing in mind your limited research experience, I will take over the role of project leader and invite you as my research assistants. I will suggest a research question and will encourage you to find and review literature on that specific subject matter. There we will construct a theoretical argument such that it could be tested with empirical data collected through public opinion surveys. So, we will need data and we will collect them through field research. Then we will create datasets that would lead toward empirical tests. During this course you will learn not only principles of scientific research in political science but will also begin to produce your own responses for some of the most important research questions about problems facing our society today.				
	 Therefore, this course's goals could I To introduce to our student "political science". To outlay the basic concep To train students for their fi To prepare students for the will be held in the 5th sen Enable students to locate to 	be comprehended as following as the meaning of the word "so ts and principles of research in rst steps in scientific research a more advanced course Statis nester. opics and methods for their di	: ience" in the name of n our discipline. stical Methods for Polit ploma theses.	our discipline, tical Science, which	

	After the successful completion of this course, students will be able to:	
Learning outcomes	 Understand a general definition of research design. Know why educational research is undertaken, and the audiences that profit from research studies. Identify the overall process of designing a research study from its inception to its report. Be familiar with ethical issues in educational research, including those issues that arise in using quantitative and qualitative research. Establish a set of theoretical hypotheses as an educated guess; Collect public opinion data for the purpose of testing those hypotheses; Apply statistical analysis on the collected data to test the theoretical hypotheses; Prepare a research paper (individual or group work) for conference presentation during following academic year.) the
	Weekly program	Week
Content	 THINKING SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY (Libri, f. 1-86) What is research? Knowledge, theory, paradigms and viewpoints Nature of data Research questions, hypotheses and research operational definitions Research as an ethical and cultural activity Take your first homework 	1, 2, 3
	 PREPARING FOR RESEARCH (Libri, f. 87-178) Planning research project Literature review Research methods Selecting the right methods Selecting the sample Research proposals Take your second homework 	4, 5, 6
	 3. COLLECTING DATA (Libri, f. 179-312) Collecting data How to collect data Questionnaires Semi-structured interviews Focus groups Observations Descriptive data Documents Secondary data sources Collecting data via the Internet Take your third homework 	7, 8, 9

	 ANALYZING DATA (Libri, f. 315-428) Starting the work Wworking with data Statistical analysis Thematic analysis Analysing recounts Analysing speeches Analysing contents Grounded theory Applying computer in analysing on the what? Conclusions Take your fourth homework) data		10, 11, 12
	 PRESENTING AND REPORTING FINDIN Importance of audiences Writing a scientific paper: report Presentation of findings Dissemination (publication) and and a scientific paper) 	IGS (Libri, f. 431-470) and diploma thesis further research		13, 14, 15
	Academic activity			Weight (%)
Teaching methods	Lectures and seminars			45%
	Lab work	30%		
	Practicum/fieldwork (optional an	timeline)	25%	
	Academic obligations	Number		
Academic	neudenne enigunene		Week	weight (%)
Academic	Homework	5	Week 3, 6, 9, 12, 15	45%
Academic obligations	Homework Fieldwork (alternative a research	5	Week 3, 6, 9, 12, 15	45%
Academic obligations	Homework Fieldwork (alternative a research paper) Lab work	5 1 1	Week 3, 6, 9, 12, 15	25% 30%
Academic obligations	Homework Fieldwork (alternative a research paper) Lab work	5 1 1	Week 3, 6, 9, 12, 15	25% 30%
Academic obligations	Homework Fieldwork (alternative a research paper) Lab work	5 1 1	Week 3, 6, 9, 12, 15	45% 25% 30% Numri
Academic obligations Sources and	Homework Fieldwork (alternative a research paper) Lab work Tools Classroom (e.g)	5 1 1	Week 3, 6, 9, 12, 15	Weight (%) 45% 25% 30% Numri 1 1
Academic obligations Sources and concretisation	Homework Fieldwork (alternative a research paper) Lab work Classroom (e.g) Computer lab (e.g)	5 1 1	Week 3, 6, 9, 12, 15	Weight (%) 45% 25% 30% Numri 1 1
Academic obligations Sources and concretisation tools	Homework Fieldwork (alternative a research paper) Lab work Classroom (e.g) Computer lab (e.g) Moodle	5	Week 3, 6, 9, 12, 15	Weight (%) 45% 25% 30% Numri 1 1 2
Academic obligations Sources and concretisation tools	Homework Fieldwork (alternative a research paper) Lab work Classroom (e.g) Computer lab (e.g) Moodle Projector	5 1 1	Week 3, 6, 9, 12, 15	Weight (%) 45% 25% 30% Numri 1 2 1 2 1
Academic obligations Sources and concretisation tools	Homework Fieldwork (alternative a research paper) Lab work Classroom (e.g) Computer lab (e.g) Moodle Projector Activity type	5 n 1	Week 3, 6, 9, 12, 15 Week hours	Weight (%) 45% 25% 30% Numri 1 2 1 2 1 Weight total
Academic obligations Sources and concretisation tools	Homework Fieldwork (alternative a research paper) Lab work Classroom (e.g) Computer lab (e.g) Moodle Projector Activity type Lectures and seminars	5	Week 3, 6, 9, 12, 15 Week hours 2	Weight (%) 45% 25% 30% Numri 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 30
Academic obligations Sources and concretisation tools Activity and load	Homework Fieldwork (alternative a research paper) Lab work Classroom (e.g) Computer lab (e.g) Moodle Projector Activity type Lectures and seminars Lab work	5	Week 3, 6, 9, 12, 15 Week hours 2 2	Weight (%) 45% 25% 30% Numri 1 2 1 2 1 30
Academic obligations Sources and concretisation tools Activity and load	Homework Fieldwork (alternative a research paper) Lab work Classroom (e.g) Computer lab (e.g) Moodle Projector Activity type Lectures and seminars Lab work	5	Week 3, 6, 9, 12, 15 Week hours 2 2	Weight (%) 45% 25% 30% Numri 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 30 15 50
Academic obligations Sources and concretisation tools Activity and load	Homework Fieldwork (alternative a research paper) Lab work Classroom (e.g) Computer lab (e.g) Moodle Projector Activity type Lectures and seminars Lab work Independent learning Homework and classwork	5	Week 3, 6, 9, 12, 15 Week hours 2 2	Weight (%) 45% 25% 30% Numri 1 2 1 2 1 30 15 50 30

Literature/referen ces	Required readings	
	Bob Matthews dhe Liz Ross. 2010. Metodat e Hulumtimit: Udhëzues praktik për shkencat sociale dhe humane	
	Recommended readings	
	Janet Buttolph Johnson and H. T. Reynolds (with Jason D. Mycoff). 2008. <i>Political Science Research Methods, 6th edition</i> . Washington D.C.: CQ Press	
Contact		