

Course	METHODOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS FOR POLITICAL SCIENCE			
	Type (M)	Semester IV	ECTS 5	Code
Course instructor Course assistant Course tutor				
Course goals and objectives	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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. Then 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.</p> <p>Therefore, this course's goals could be comprehended as following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To introduce to our students the meaning of the word "science" in the name of our discipline, "political science". 2. To outlay the basic concepts and principles of research in our discipline. 3. To train students for their first steps in scientific research. 4. To prepare students for the more advanced course Statistical Methods for Political Science, which will be held in the 5th semester. 5. Enable students to locate topics and methods for their diploma theses. 			

	<p>4. ANALYZING DATA (Libri, f. 315-428)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Starting the work Working with data Statistical analysis Thematic analysis Analysing recounts Analysing speeches Analysing contents Grounded theory Applying computer in analysing data Then what? Conclusions <p>Take your fourth homework</p> <p>First lab class (in classroom and home)</p>	10, 11, 12		
	<p>PRESENTING AND REPORTING FINDINGS (Libri, f. 431-470)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Importance of audiences Writing a scientific paper: report and diploma thesis Presentation of findings Dissemination (publication) and further research 	13, 14, 15		
Teaching methods	Academic activity	Weight (%)		
	Lectures and seminars	45%		
	Lab work	30%		
	Practicum/fieldwork (optional and outside the academic timeline)	25%		
Academic obligations	Academic obligations	Number	Week	Weight (%)
	Homework	5	3, 6, 9, 12, 15	45%
	Fieldwork (alternative a research paper)	1		25%
	Lab work			30%
Sources and concretisation tools	Tools	Numri		
	Classroom (e.g)	1		
	Computer lab (e.g)	1		
	Moodle	2		
	Projector	1		
Activity and load	Activity type	Week hours	Weight total	
	Lectures and seminars	2	30	
	Lab work	2	15	
	Independent learning		50	
	Homework and classwork		30	

Literature/references	Required readings Bob Matthews dhe Liz Ross. 2010. <i>Metodat e Hulumtimit: Udhëzues praktik për shkencat sociale dhe humane</i> 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	