

QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS

COURSE DESCRIPTION (Group C)

Course code	Course group	Volume in ECTS credits	Course valid from	Course valid to	Reg. No.
POL 3025	C	6	2016 05 21	2019 05 21	

Course type (compulsory or optional)	Compulsory
Course level (study cycle)	Bachelor
Semester the course is delivered	V semester/Autumn
Study form (face-to-face or distant)	Face- to -face

Course title in Lithuanian

KOKYBINIAI POLITINĖS ERDVĖS TYRIMO METODAI

Course title in English

QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS FOR POLITICS

Short course annotation in Lithuanian (up to 500 characters)

Šis kursas skiriamas studentų supažindinimui su kokybinių tyrimų metodika, taikoma įvairiose politikos tyrimų srityse (institucijų, viešosios politikos, politinės kultūros ir politinio elgesio, tarptautinių santykių ir kt.). Jame siekiama aptarti pagrindines socialinių tyrimo metodų sąvokas ir principus, kokybinių tyrimų strategijas, metodus ir procedūras. Kurso pradžioje aptariami reikalavimai tyrimo projekto ir ataskaitos rašymui, palyginami kiekybiniai ir kokybiniai tyrimai ir jų dizainai. Toliau studentai mokosi formuluoti kokybiniams politikos tyrimams tinkamus tyrimo klausimus, pasirinkti tinkamus metodus analizuojamoms politikos problemoms, surinkti duomenis ir juos išanalizuoti bei interpretuoti.

Short course annotation in English (up to 500 characters)

This course aims at introducing students a variety of tools used to conduct empirical qualitative research in various spheres of political science (institutions, political culture, political behavior, political communication, International relations etc.). Also to make students familiar with possibilities to apply social research methods based on qualitative data in political research. After the completion of the course students are expected to be competent to apply a chosen method in practice by carrying out their own research and analyzing the results.

We begin by considering what it means to be “scientific” and the assumptions behind a scientific approach to political inquiry. Then we explore concepts associated with qualitative political research and turn to issues of research design, strategies, methods and procedures. The course covers such qualitative research strategies as discourse analysis, ethnographic research, case study etc. Students learn to apply methodological knowledge by working on research project in teams/group work.

Prerequisites for entering the course

Students should have some basic knowledge of political science which is possible to get by having the following bachelor courses: Introduction to Political Science, Introduction to International Relations.

Course aim

To help students acquire the basic knowledge and skills on how to perform the research in political science by applying the necessary qualitative research methods and strategies.

Links between study programme outcomes, course outcomes and criteria of learning achievement evaluation

Study programme outcomes	Course outcomes	Criteria of learning achievement evaluation
To apply methodological tools and theoretical approaches in policy analysis and in practice;	Students will learn how to use and define the basic concepts of research methods and strategies in the analyses of different issues in politics	Knowledge and ability to use necessary terminology and concepts of political research methods and strategies in a particular context and analysis
	Students will get basic knowledge and understanding about the qualitative research methodology, strategy, and their practical application	Knowledge and understanding how to apply the qualitative research methodology in practice
	Students will learn how to write a research project and carry out their own research of selected issues in various spheres of political science	Ability to write a research plan and conduct political science research analysis by using different methods, relevant research material and sources
	Students will be able in a critical way to read scientific articles that use results of qualitative research analysis	The ability to understand, discuss and explain the qualitative research methodology used in the articles and monographs.
	Students will be able to interpret the qualitative research data	The ability to prepare the interpretation of the qualitative research data

Link between course outcomes and content

Course outcomes	Content (topics)
Students will learn how to use and define the basic concepts of research methods and strategies in the analyses of different issues in politics	Quantitative and qualitative research: basic concepts, issues and history. Quantitative and qualitative research strategies' triangulation Reliability and validity. Ethical aspects of research.
Students will get basic knowledge and understanding about the qualitative research methodology, strategy, and their practical application	Focus group interviews. Interview: formulation of questions, conduct of the interview and data analysis. Detailed (in depth) interviews. Ethnographic studies and contemporary political space. The real participant and the participant observation. Content Analysis. Document analysis. Discourse analysis. Case study
Students will learn how to write a research project and carry out their own research of selected issues in various spheres of political science	The basic research stages: a) the selection of the research problem, b) Research model and research strategy choice, c) research design, d) data collection, e) data analysis, f) Report writing
Students will be able in a critical way to read scientific articles that use	All topics listed in this programme

results of qualitative research analysis	
Students will be able to interpret the qualitative research data	Qualitative research data analysis techniques and data interpretation. Oral presentation of the group research project

Study (teaching and learning) methods

Lectures; seminars and discussions; group work and presentations; individual creative writing assignments (research papers).

Methods of learning achievement assessment

Homework, discussions, presentations, conduct of small-scale political research project, colloquium and exam

Distribution of workload for students (contact and independent work hours)

Lectures – 30 hours, seminars – 15 hours, group work – 15 hours; individual written assignments – 20 hours, individual student's work (including preparation for the exams) – 80 hours. Total: 160 hours.

Structure of cumulative score and value of its constituent parts

Mid-term exam - 25 percent of the final grade, participation in discussions, seminars, performance of practical tasks and presentation of research project -25 percent of the final grade, final exam - 50 percent of the final grade.

Recommended reference materials

No.	Publication year	Authors of publication and title	Publishing house	Number of copies in		
				University library	Self-study rooms	Other libraries
Basic materials						
1.	2011	Silverman, D. (ed.). Doing qualitative research: a Practical handbook	Sage	1		
2.	2005	Ruane Janet M. Essentials of Research Methods: a guide to social science research.	Blackwell Publishing,	1		
3.	2002	Theory and Methods in Political Science. Ed. By D. Marsh and G. Stoker.	Palgrave Macmillan	1	1	
4.	Selected readings, research data from the online data base www.lidata.eu ; http://www.murray.harvard.edu/ ; http://www.qualitative-research.net/index.php/fqs/article/view/1048/2269					
Supplementary materials						
1.	2011	Z. Norkus, V. Morkevičius. Kokybinė lyginamoji analizė	Lietuvos HSM duomenų archyvas (LiDA)			
2.	2009	I.Unikaitė-Jakuntavičienė. Politikos mokslų krypties studentų rašto	Vytauto Didžiojo universiteto leidykla			

		darbų rašymas ir pristatymas: mokomoji metodinių nurodymų knyga		
3.	2008	Fairclough Norman. Analysing discourse.	Routledge	
4.	2007	Silverman, David. Interpreting qualitative data.	Sage Publications	
5.	2005	K. Kardelis. Mokslinių tyrimų metodologija ir metodai	Lucilijus	
6.	2000	Frankfort-Nachmias, C. And D. Nachmias. Research Methods in the Social Sciences,	Worth Publichers	
7.	1997	May, Tim. Social research: issues, methods and process.	Open University Press	

Course programme designed by

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