

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Course code	Course group	Volume in ECTS credits	Course valid from	Course valid to	Reg. No.
POP6009	c	6	2016 05 21	2019 05 21	

<b>Course type (compulsory or optional)</b>	<b>Compulsory</b>
<b>Course level (study cycle)</b>	<b>Master</b>
<b>Semester the course is delivered</b>	<b>3rd</b>
<b>Study form (face-to-face or distant)</b>	<b>Face-to-face/distant</b>

#### Course title in Lithuanian

Magistro darbo tyrimo dizainas ir metodologija

#### Course title in English

Master thesis research design and methodology

#### Short course annotation in Lithuanian (up to 500 characters)

Dalykas yra derinamas su magistro baigiamojo darbo rašymu, tad jo užsiėmimai vyksta paskutiniame semestre derinant nuotolinį darbą su auditoriniu. Kurso metu studijuojama politikos reiškinių teorinė refleksija ir praktinės analizės būdai. Kurso pradžioje aptariami pagrindiniai teoriniai metodologiniai politikos analizės principai, normatyvinės, empirinės ir vidurinio lygmens politikos teorijos. Mokomasi taikyti teorinius požiūrius įvairių politikos proceso reiškinių analizei, susiejant su studentų pasirinktomis baigiamųjų darbų temomis. Kurso metu studentai išmoksta pasirinkti jų temai tinkamiausią tyrimo dizainą, empirinio tyrimo metodus bei tinkamai parengti baigiamojo darbo tyrimą bei metodologinę dalį.

#### Short course annotation in English (up to 500 characters)

The course is combined with the process of master thesis writing. The face to face and distant learning activities take place during the last study semester. The students study theoretical reflection of political phenomenon and the ways of its practical, empirical analysis. At the beginning of the course the main theoretical methodological principles of political analysis, normative, empirical and middle range political theories are discussed. Students learn how to apply the theoretical views for the analysis of various phenomenon of political process by linking this process to the topics of students' master thesis. During the course students gain necessary skills for the choosing the best research design for their topics, empirical research methods and preparing of research and methodological part of the thesis.

#### Prerequisites for entering the course

Students should have knowledge of political science which is possible to obtain by completing all the required Contemporary European Politics master programme courses; basic knowledge in Qualitative and Quantitative research methods (BA programme courses)

#### Course aim

The course aims at generalization and deepening of the knowledge and the research and analysis skills related to the research design of the master thesis, preparation of empirical research and academic writing which were gained during the whole period of studies.

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

Study programme outcomes	Course outcomes	Criteria of learning achievement evaluation
1.2. Being able to evaluate the differences of views expressed in the academic discussions and explain the causes of different interpretations of the political events and processes in contemporary European politics;	1. Students will be able to describe the main methodological approaches used for the studies of politics, and ability to explain development, interrelationship and possibilities to apply various methodological approaches in the concrete analysis of Contemporary European politics issues	Students' ability to choose appropriate methodological approach and explain in a reasoned way why the concrete approach is suitable for the analysis of concrete contemporary European politics.

	2. Students will be able to choose and plan the research design for comparative and case analysis; forecasting research	Student's ability to present his/her research plan and design and comment it in a group discussion.
2.2. Perform a comparative analysis, explain its results, value of the research conclusions, formulate recommendations and provide forecasts of the development of contemporary processes in European politics and public policy implementation measures as well as alternatives of the policies;	3. Students will know the major theories and methodologies for analysis of EU policies, and will be able to apply them for a certain EU policy and institutional case analysis.	Students ability to choose concrete EU public policy and aspect of its analysis, and being able to prepare the instrument for its analysis.
4.1. Communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions of contemporary European politics to both specialist and non-specialist audiences by participating in public and academic discussions. 3.1. Identify, analyze and evaluate the political and social processes taking place both globally and across the European continent and in individual European countries by writing academic texts;	4. Students will be able to prepare the research plan, to choose the appropriate research methods and approaches, find and critically evaluate the necessary information, formulate conclusions, interpretations, evaluations and prognosis.	Students skills and ability to find and critically evaluate the information, formulate arguments, conclusions, interpretations, prognoses in the research text.

#### Link between course outcomes and content

Course outcomes	Content (topics)
1. Ability to describe the main methodological approaches used for the studies of politics, and ability to explain development, interrelationship and possibilities to apply various methodological approaches in the concrete analysis of Contemporary European politics issues	Dichotomy in the studies of politics: Normative and empirical approaches. The main methodological presumptions in research of politics. The discussion of various range theories in politics. Comparative research and their importance in political research.
2. Students will be able to choose and plan the research design for comparative and case analysis; forecasting research	Qualitative, quantitative and mixed research design in political research. Forecasting methods in political analysis: scenario, expert interview, projection and causal modeling, time series analysis etc.
3. Students will know the major theories and methodologies for analysis of EU policies, and will be able to apply them for a certain EU policy and institutional case analysis.	European integration theories applying in EU policies and institutions analysis. Regionalism in EU policies analysis.
4. Students will be able to prepare the research plan, to	Planning of the research and preparation of research design. Writing of the analytical text.

choose the appropriate research methods and approaches, find and critically evaluate the necessary information, formulate conclusions, interpretations, evaluations and prognosis.	Introductory and methodological part characteristics and writing. Conclusions, forecasting formulation and presentation. The citation and references system application. The requirements for the master thesis text preparation and presentation.
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#### **Study (teaching and learning) methods**

Teaching methods: lecturing, explanation, commentaries, and consultations in class and online; Study methods: scientific literature studies, home work presentations, discussions in groups, written assignments – cases analysis, commenting of the colleagues work.

#### **Methods of learning achievement assessment**

Discussions, homework presentations, short written assignments, research plan and introductory part, research design preparation

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

<b>Lectures</b>	<b>20 h.</b>
<b>Seminars</b>	<b>20 h.</b>
<b>Group work</b>	<b>10 h.</b>
<b>Distance work on line</b>	<b>10 h.</b>
<b>Individual students work</b>	<b>100 h.</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>160 h.</b>

#### **Structure of cumulative score and value of its constituent parts**

Participation and activity in seminars -30 percentages, midterm (introductory part of the research paper presentation) -20 percentages. Exam (preparation of the research design of the master thesis) – 50 percentages.

#### **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.	2015	Ingrida Unikaitė-Jakuntavičienė, Sima Rakutienė. Politikos mokslų rašto darbų rengimas. Mokomoji knyga.	Kaunas: VDU leidykla	Elektronic version		
2.	2014	Creswell, John W., Research design : qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches	Los Angeles (Calif.) [etc.] : Sage	2		
3.	2010	Silverman, David, Doing qualitative research: a Practical handbook	Los Angeles (Calif.) [etc.] : Sage	1		
4.	2008	Žydzūnaitė, V. Tyrimo dizainas: struktūra ir strategijos.	Kaunas: Technologija	1	1	10
5.	2008	Research methods in politics / Peter Burnham...[et al.].	Hound mills: Palgrave Macmillan	1		
6.	2006	The Oxford handbook of political theory / edited by John S. Dryzek, Bonnie Honig, Anne Phillips.	Oxford : Oxford University Press	1		
7.	2000	Rosamond, Ben. Theories of European integration	Hound mills: Palgrave Macmillan	1		
Supplementary materials						
1.	2011	Alex Warleigh-Lack, Nick	Routledge	1		

		Robinson, Ben Rosamond. New Regionalism and the European Union: Dialogues, Comparisons and New Research Directions		
2.	2014	Gaižauskaitė, Inga. Socialinių tyrimų metodai: apklausa : vadovėlis	Vilnius : Mykolo Romerio universitetas	Elektronic version
3.	2007	Davies, Martin Brett. Doing a successful research project : using qualitative or quantitative methods	Houndmills [etc.] : Palgrave Macmillan	2

**Course programme designed by**

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