

Research Design for the Social Sciences | POP77011

Year	1 Year
ECTS Credits	10
Contact Hours	TBC
Pre-requisite	Nil
Semester	1
Module Leader & Lecturer	Dr Asli Ceren Cinar
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Module Outline

Module Description:

This module offers an introduction to the scientific inquiry of the social world. Students will learn how to identify compelling research questions and to how to design a study that contributes to existing scholarship. We will cover the core elements of research design and discuss various methodological approaches used in contemporary social science research. The emphasis of the module will be on developing novel, falsifiable, and empirically testable explanations of social phenomena.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this module, students are expected to:

1. Gain a better understanding of the research process and challenges associated with conducting social science research.
2. Be familiar with various research methods.
3. Learn how to formulate research questions and hypotheses, and choose appropriate research design and data sources to test their hypotheses.
4. Develop skills essential to conduct high-quality research in the field of social sciences.

Assessment

10% Participation

5% Research Question

10% Literature Review

15% Empirical Strategy

60% Final Proposal

Recommended Reading List

Details of readings for individual topics will be given separately. The following items will occur on the reading for specific topics or are of general relevance and usefulness.

Toshkov, D. (2016). Research design in political science. Macmillan International Higher Education.

Gerring, J., 2012. Social Science Methodology: A unified framework. Cambridge University Press.

Geddes, B., 2003. Paradigms and sand castles: Theory building and research design in comparative politics. University of Michigan Press.

Kellstedt, P.M. and Whitten, G. D. (2018). The Fundamentals of Political Science Research. Cambridge University Press. (Chapters 1-2).