Research Design | POP77063

Year	1
ECTS Credits	5
Contact Hours	TBC
Pre-requisite	Nil
Semester	2
Module Leader & Lecturer	Dr Emanuel Coman
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Module Outline

This course introduces students to the theoretical and practical issues they will need to conduct research on politics. To be successful, political science research must identify a variation to be explained, offer a new argument about reasons for actors' behaviours, and be integrated into existing research, falsifiable and tested. The requirement that research claims should explain variation, be falsifiable and tested against observable evidence of the implications of their claims, is demanding, and one that many students will initially find difficult. Nevertheless, it is the essential feature of successful political science research. The particular approach of this course emphasises leading with the 'dependent variable' and 'disaggregation' of the various aspects of research design, isolated in some degree from each other.

Additionally, we will cover some practical issues related to the profession, such as participation in conference, submission to journals or the job market.

Assessment

10% Class Participation
20% Reaction Papers (four papers of equal value)
20% Project Outline
50% Full Research Design

Recommended Reading List

The readings assigned fall into two categories (i) theoretical discussions of the issues covered in that week. These are chapters from methodology textbooks or reflection papers written by some of the best names in the field; (ii) empirical journal articles with applications of the theoretical concepts discussed.