

MSc Research Design A | POP88041

Year	1 Yr (Fulltime) 2 Yr (Parttime)
ECTS Credits	5
Contact Hours	TBC
Pre-requisite	Nil
Semester	1
Module Leader & Lecturer	Dr Gizem Arian
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Module Outline

Module Description:

This graduate seminar introduces students to the scientific inquiry of the political world. Students will learn how to identify compelling research questions and how to structure a study that contributes to an existing body of research. Moreover, we will discuss the problems of casual inference and multiple methodological approaches (statistical analysis, process tracing, case studies) to the empirical study of politics. The emphasis of the module will be on the development of novel, falsifiable, and empirically testable explanations of political phenomena.

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of the course, students are expected to gain a greater understanding of the research process, problems associated with conducting social research, become familiar with different research methods, learn how to formulate research questions, hypotheses, and selecting appropriate research design and data sources to test their hypotheses. Students will gain first-hand experience by writing article reviews and putting together a full research proposal, thus helping them to build skills essential to conduct high quality research in the field of international relations and comparative politics.

Assessment

Participation 10%

Research Question 5%

Literature review 10%

Empirical strategy 15%

Final proposal 60%

Recommended Reading List

- Gerring, John. 2012. *Social Science Methodology: A Unified Framework*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 2nd Edition.
- Johnson, Janet Buttolph, Rynolds, H.T., and Mycoff, Jason D. 2015. *Political Science Research Methods*. CQ Press.

- King, G. Keohane, R.O., Verba, S. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton University Press.