



<b>Course title</b>	Skills Course/Research Methods in Political Sciences: Qualitative and Quantitative Analysis
<b>Course Code</b>	GEN202.1
<b>Category</b> (core/elective)	Core
<b>Level</b>	BA in European Law and Governance
<b>Duration</b> (semesters)	1
<b>Semester when taught</b> (autumn/spring)	Autumn
<b>ECTS:</b>	6
<b>Access requirements</b>	None
<b>Responsible</b>	Maria-Eleni Agoraki and Theodoros Fouskas
<b>Course objectives</b>	
<p>The aim of the first part of the course is to provide students with the necessary skills to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses in the use quantitative research methods and apply the appropriate ones according to the research demands. This will allow students to critically apply diverse research methods and interpret quantitative data, while using statistical software packages.</p> <p>The second part of the course aims at offering students an overview and introduction to a range of qualitative research methods. Methods introduced include in-depth interviews, focus groups and participant observation, as well as research design, ethical issues, data analysis, and preparation of findings for publication. They will be able to formulate researchable questions, take into consideration ethical guidelines for data collection and define a research strategy and design a research project to answer a research question.</p>	
<b>Course Description</b>	
<p>In the first part, this course specifies key features of quantitative research design using appropriate statistical software. The first lecture outlines the basic concepts and processes of quantitative research methods and the first stages in carrying out a quantitative research project while analyzing the logic of experimental design. The course then continues to discuss the sampling and pros and cons of different approaches. Moreover, it presents the survey methods, the design methods of questionnaires as well as interviewing techniques. The second part of the course provides an overview of data analysis techniques. The course ends with presenting the principles of statistical inference, the estimation and explanation of descriptive statistics and the tests of statistical significance using appropriate</p>	

statistical software.

In the second part, students will be introduced to key research strategies in qualitative research and principles for research design in qualitative research. The students will gain a greater understanding of the research process and the methodological decisions faced by social and political scientists. The course introduces them to the various methods applied in qualitative research and the limitations associated with each. They will be able to engage in participant observation and to conduct structured and semi-structured, in-depth interviews with study participants. Moreover, students will learn how to obtain narratives and life histories, to organize and conduct focus groups with study participants and to manage qualitative data using computerized text analysis software programs. In addition, they will be able to manage qualitative data. This course will provide a foundation for future work in the social and political sciences for all students.

## Course Outline

### Part 1

1. Introduction to quantitative research methods, Experimental design and measurement strategies
2. Sampling, questionnaires and interviews
3. Quantitative data analysis
4. Statistical inference and tests of statistical significance

The first part of the course is organized around four lectures and their corresponding seminars.

### Part 2

1. Introduction to Qualitative Research
2. Conceptualizing a Qualitative Study and Ethical Issues
3. Qualitative Approaches to Inquiry
4. Different Qualitative Studies
5. Thematizing and Designing: Introducing and Focusing the Study
6. Data Collection: Conducting an Interview
7. *Analysis Workshop 1: Interview Design, Analysis and Interpretation*
8. Transcription of Interviews, Analysis and Interpretation
9. *Analysis Workshop 2: Interview Design, Analysis and Interpretation*
10. Writing a Qualitative Study
11. *Analysis Workshop 3: Interview Design, Analysis and Interpretation*
12. Validity, Generalization and Reporting
13. *Analysis Workshop 4: Interview Design, Analysis and Interpretation*

The second part of course is organized around nine lectures and four corresponding seminars:

## Educational Outcomes

By the end of the first part of course the students are expected to be able to have a broad understanding of research methods in political sciences. They should be able to apply appropriate techniques to the collection and analysis of quantitative data as well as identify

and critically evaluate an appropriate research approach, methods and tools for a specific research project. Finally, the students are expected to be able to use appropriate statistical software to analyse quantitative data.

Upon completion of the second part of the course students will be able:

- To develop a social research question that leads to qualitative/empirical research;
- To distinguish the theoretical basis for and key features of conducting the main qualitative methodologies;
- To be sensitive to ethical issues and to working with different populations;
- To develop skills and knowledge about social research;
- To conduct in-depth interviews;
- To organize data from in-depth interviews and observations;
- To develop and clearly define their ideas and ethically integrate sources of various kinds into their writing;
- To compose texts through drafting, revising, and completing a finished product;  
To express themselves through their writing by posing questions, making original claims, and coherently structuring complex ideas.

<p><b>Basic Textbook(s)</b></p>	<p>Brinkmann, S. and Kvale, S. (2015) <i>Interviews: InterViews Learning the Craft of Qualitative Research Interviewing</i>. Los Angeles: Sage</p> <p>Bryman, A., and Cramer, D. (2011). <i>Quantitative data analysis with IBM SPSS 17, 18 and 19</i>. Routledge.</p> <p>Creswell, J. and Poth, C. (2017) <i>Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design: Choosing Among Five Traditions. Fourth Edition</i>. Thousand Oaks, California: Sage.</p> <p>- McNabb, D. E. (2015). <i>Research methods for political science: Quantitative and qualitative methods</i>. Routledge.</p>
<p><b>Basic Bibliography</b></p>	<p>Anderson, K. and D. Jack (1998). "Learning to Listen: Interview Techniques and Analyses", in Perks, R. and Thompson, A. (1998) <i>Oral History Reader</i>. London: Routledge, 157-171.</p> <p>Bazeley, P. (2013). <i>Qualitative Data Analysis: Practical Strategies</i>. Thousand Oaks: Sage.</p> <p>Bazeley, P. and Jackson, K. (2013). <i>Qualitative Data Analysis with NVivo. Second Edition</i>. Thousand Oaks: Sage.</p> <p>Berg, S. (1988). "Snowball Sampling" in S. Kotz and N. L. Johnson (eds.) <i>Encyclopedia of Statistical Sciences</i>, vol. 7. New York: Wiley, 7817-7821.</p> <p>Bickman, L., and Rog, D. J. (Eds.). (2008). <i>The Sage handbook of applied social research methods</i>. Sage publications.</p> <p>Bilsborrow, R. et al. (eds.) (1984). <i>Migration Surveys in Low Income Countries</i>. London: Croom Helm.</p> <p>Blair, J., Czaja, R. F., and Blair, E. A. (2013). <i>Designing surveys: A guide to decisions and procedures</i>. Sage Publications.</p> <p>Bryman, A. (2015). <i>Social research methods</i>. Oxford university press.</p> <p>Buttolph J, Reynolds, H. and Mycoff, J. (2016). <i>Political</i></p>

*Science Research Methods*. Thousand Oak: Sage.

Chambliss, D. and Shutt, R. (2016). *Making Sense of the Social World: Methods of Investigation. Second Edition*. Los Angeles: Sage.

Cornelius, W. A. (1982). "Interviewing Undocumented Immigrants: Methodological Reflections Based on Fieldwork in Mexico and the U.S.", *International Migration Review*, 16(2):178-411.

Cresswell, J. and Clark, V. (2017). *Designing and Conducting Mixed Methods Research*. Thousand Oaks: Sage.

Creswell, J. W. (2013). *Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches*. Sage publications.

Denzin, N. (1989). *Interpretive Biography: Qualitative Research Methods*. London: Sage.

Denzin, N. and Lincoln, Y (2013). *Handbook of Qualitative Research. Second Edition*. Thousand Oaks: Sage.

Denzin, N. and Lincoln, Y. (eds.) (2011). *The Sage Handbook of Qualitative Research*. Thousand Oaks: Sage.

Devine, F. (1995). "Qualitative Methods", in Marsh, D. and Stoker, G. (eds.) *Theory and Methods in Political Science*. London: Macmillan, 137-153.

Dillman, D.A., Smyth, J.D. and Christian, L.M. (2014). *Internet, phone, mail and mixed-mode surveys: The tailored design method. (4th Ed.)*. Wiley, New York, NY.

Emerson, R., Fretz, R., and Shaw, L. (2011). *Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Fowler Jr, F. J. (2013). *Survey research methods*. Sage publications.

Gillham, B. (2000). *The Research Interview*. London/New York: Continuum.

Goodman, L. A. (1961). "Snowball Sampling", *The Annals of Mathematical Statistics*, 32(1):148-170.

Healey, J. F., Boli, J., Babbie, E. R., and Halley, F. (Eds.). (2009). *Exploring social issues: Using SPSS for Windows*. Sage Publications.

Johnson, J. B., Reynolds, H. T., and Mycoff, J. D. (2015). *Political science research methods*. Cq Press.

Marsh, D., and Stoker, G. (Eds.). (2010). *Theory and methods in political science*. Palgrave Macmillan.

Marshall, C. and G. Rossman (1999). *Designing Qualitative Research*. California: Sage.

Marshall, C. and Rossman, G. (2016). *Designing Qualitative Research. Sixth Edition*. Los Angeles: Sage.

McNabb, D. (2016). *Research Methods for Political Science: Quantitative and Qualitative Approaches*. London/New York: Routledge.

Morgan, D. (1997). *Focus Groups as Qualitative Research*. Newbury Park: Sage.

Peräkylä, A. (1997). "Reliability and Validity in Research

	<p>Based on Transcripts”, in D. Silverman (ed.) <i>Qualitative Research</i>. London: Sage, 201-220.</p> <p>Price, G., and Maier, P. (2007). <i>Effective Study Skills</i>. Harlow: Pearson.</p> <p>Savin-Baden, M. and Major, C. (2013). <i>Qualitative Research: The Essential Guide to Theory and Practice</i>. Rutledge: New York City.</p> <p>Silverman, D. (2010). <i>Doing Qualitative Research</i>. London: Sage.</p> <p>Silverman, D. (2013). <i>Doing Qualitative Research. Fourth Edition</i>. Thousand Oaks: Sage.</p> <p>Trochim, W. (2000). <i>The Research Methods Knowledge Base (2nd Ed.)</i>. Atomic Dog Publishing, Cincinnati, OH.</p>								
<b>Additional Bibliography</b>	Additional bibliography will be offered specifically for each lecture.								
<b>Teaching Methodology</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Lectures</td> <td>13 x 2 = 26 h</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tutorials</td> <td>7 x 2 = 14 h</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Total = 40 h</td> </tr> </table> <p>The course will be delivered through participative lectures and class discussions based on case studies and via short videos and other multimedia sources, such as photographs, documentaries, films, interviews, as sources of data in the classroom.</p>	Lectures	13 x 2 = 26 h	Tutorials	7 x 2 = 14 h		Total = 40 h		
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	100%								
<b>Language</b>	English								
<b>Traineeship</b>	No								
<b>Location</b>	Legraina								
<b>General note</b>	While the ‘Course Objectives’ and ‘Educational Outcomes’ above remain immutable, the ‘Course Content’ and ‘Course Outline’ may be altered in order to accommodate student’s needs and individual professor’s approaches. Bibliography and reading materials may vary accordingly.								