

Introduction to Research in Political Science

Titulaires

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Mnémonique du cours

POLI-D213

Crédits ECTS

5 crédits

Langue(s) d'enseignement

Anglais

Période du cours

Premier quadrimestre

Campus

Solbosch

Contenu du cours

The course is organized in seminar groups. The course questions what political science research is. Each class is dedicated to a step in the process of scientific reasoning, which is explained, illustrated with examples, and then applied by the students. The exercises aim at applying the political science research process.

Objectifs (et/ou acquis d'apprentissages spécifiques)

The purpose of this course is to provide students with an understanding and appreciation of the terminology, concepts, theoretical approaches and research methods in political science. The course intends to teach students how to develop scientific research designs. The course prepares students to the writing of papers throughout their studies, up to the Master thesis / Final dissertation.

Intended Student Learning Outcome

- > To be able to find, read, understand and interpret most research published in political science journals
- > To understand the major theoretical approaches to political science research
- > To be familiar with various research methods in political science
- > To be able to identify and apply these approaches and methods in a research paper
- > To be able to develop a research design
- > To sharpen critical thinking
- > To develop writing skills
- > To learn to read a scientific contribution and identify the authors' research design
- > To acquire skills that will be used in all future papers and the Master thesis/Final dissertation

Méthodes d'enseignement et activités d'apprentissages

The course is organized as a seminar, with regular assignments and presentations by the students. Each class consists of an explanation of a step in the research process (with illustrations), and an active application of the step in the research process by students (via practical exercises and development of their own research design). Overall, the course rests on an active participation by the students.

Registration to a group is done online via the UV (Université virtuelle), from **September 13 at noon to September 26 at 5pm**. Students are expected to have double-checked the group schedule before registering to a group.

Students who are not registered for the exercises before November 1st are not allowed to take the course during the academic year. They are invited to re-register next academic year.

Contribution au profil d'enseignement

The course prepares students to the writing of papers throughout their studies, up to the Master thesis / Final dissertation.

Références, bibliographie et lectures recommandées

List of references available on the UV

Support(s) de cours

Université virtuelle et Podcast

Autres renseignements

Lieu(x) d'enseignement

Solbosch

Contact(s)

> **Alena Prokop-Sobotova (suppléante):** Tuesday 14:00-16:00
Contact: S building - Office S.11.218; Email: alena.sobotova@ulb.be

· **Emilie van Haute (titulaire - en sabbatique 2023-24):**

Contact: S building - Office S.11.125; Email: emilie.van.haute@ulb.be@ulb.be

· Ekaterina Pierson: Wednesdays 08:30-10:30 via Teams

Email: ekaterina.lyzhina@ulb.be

· Emilia Salminen:

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Méthode(s) d'évaluation

Examen écrit et Travail de groupe

Examen écrit

Question ouverte à développement long

Méthode(s) d'évaluation (complément)

Construction de la note (en ce compris, la pondération des notes partielles)

Students performances will be assessed as follows:

- > Final exam: 50%
- > Exercises: 50%
- > Students have to get a grade for both parts of the course. As long as they haven't, they will be marked ABSENT.

Construction de la note (en ce compris, la pondération des notes partielles)

Exercises:

the final mark is based on:

- > average of all three group work grades. A group work that is not submitted is marked as ABSENT, which is applied as the mark for the exercises as a whole. Group work not submitted in due time will generate a penalty of 10% of the total grade per 24h.
- > Students have to attend classes. If you are not able to attend, you have to notify your teacher. Each (unjustified) missed class will result in a penalty of 10% of the mark (i.e. minus 1 out of 10). The penalties are cumulative (e.g. Five unjustified missed class will result in a malus of 5 out of 10). »

Important :

Group assignments are given an identical mark for the entire group. The papers are submitted under the responsibility of the entire group. In case of plagiarism, the sanction will be applied to the entire group. Late registrations are not allowed. Students who are not registered for the exercises before November 1st are not allowed to take the course during the academic year.

Final exam:

the final mark is based on:

- Written exam (January session and retake session in August-September)
- 2 questions based on applying the course content

Retake session:

- Students decide at their own risk whether they want to retake the paper, the exam, or both
- Students who decide to retake the paper have to present it as an individual paper, based on a single paper that includes all the steps. The paper has to be handed over before the date of the exam

Langue(s) d'évaluation principale(s)

Anglais

Programmes

Programmes proposant ce cours à la faculté de Philosophie et Sciences sociales

BA-POLI | Bachelier en sciences politiques, orientation générale | bloc 2