

# Final dissertation seminar

## Titulaires

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## Mnémonique du cours

POLI-D543

## Crédits ECTS

10 crédits

## Langue(s) d'enseignement

Anglais

## Période du cours

Premier quadrimestre

## Campus

Solbosch

## Contenu du cours

*The common module questions what political science research is. It presents the main theoretical approaches and research methods in political science and international relations. It covers the first steps of the research process. In preparation of each lesson, students are required to have read the corresponding reading material. The exercises aim at applying the political science research process. 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.*

## Objectifs (et/ou acquis d'apprentissages spécifiques)

### 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

## Méthodes d'enseignement et activités d'apprentissages

### Class Format

The class format is organized around three equilibriums: theory and exercises, accumulation of knowledge and critical thinking; explanation and application. The workload is spread between the common module and the exercises. The common module is dedicated to the presentation and discussion of the main theoretical approaches and data collection and data analysis methods, as well as illustrations based on existing research.

The exercises are organized as a group seminar, with regular assignments. 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 for the Final Dissertation).

Overall, the course rests on an active preparation by the students. Students are expected to have read the material in preparation for each week.

## Contribution au profil d'enseignement

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. Together with the exercises, the course prepares students to the writing of their final dissertation.

## Références, bibliographie et lectures recommandées

### Useful research methods references

Johnson J.B., Reynolds H.T., *Political Science Research Methods*, London, Sage, 2012, 7<sup>th</sup> edition.

Burnham P. et al, *Research Methods in Politics*, London, Palgrave MacMillan, 2008.

Heywood A., *Key Concepts in Politics*, New York, St Martin's Press, 2000.

## Autres renseignements

## Lieu(x) d'enseignement

Solbosch

## Contact(s)

### Alena Prokop Sobotova (Professor)

- Office hours : Tuesdays 14-16 (by appointment only)
- Contact: S Building, 11<sup>th</sup> floor, room 218 (S11.218); [alena.sobotova@ulb.be](mailto:alena.sobotova@ulb.be)

### Teaching Assistants

- Alice Dechamps ([alice.dechamps2@ulb.be](mailto:alice.dechamps2@ulb.be), S.10.230)
- Quitterie de Labbey ([quitterie.de.labbey@ulb.be](mailto:quitterie.de.labbey@ulb.be), R41.1.307)
- Ekaterina Pierson-Lyzhina ([Ekaterina.Lyzhina@ulb.be](mailto:Ekaterina.Lyzhina@ulb.be))

## Programmes

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

MA-PINT | Master en sciences politiques, orientation relations  
internationales | finalité Monde/bloc 2 et MA60-POLI | Master en  
sciences politiques (60 crédits) | option JOUR/bloc U