

Introduction to Research

2013/2014

Codi: 42273

Crèdits: 10

Titulació	Tipus	Curs	Semestre
4313335 Ciència Política / Political Science	OB	0	1

Professor de contacte

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Utilització d'idiomes

Llengua vehicular majoritària: anglès (eng)

Prerequisites

Students enrolled in this course are expected to have a bachelors degree level in political science.

Objectius

The purpose of this module is to provide students with the methodological tools that are required for designing research projects in political science. The module is intended to help students successfully defend their Master Thesis and develop research proposals for PhD applications.

The module overviews the different phases of research, analyzes their potential problems and discusses solutions discussed in the literature. Within the module department professors and researchers present their current and past research projects, with an emphasis in linking relevant research questions to adequate research strategies.

Competències

Ciència Política / Political Science

- Demonstration reading comprehension for specialist texts in English.
- Design a research project that satisfies the criteria of rigour and academic excellence.
- Develop leadership skills.
- Generate innovative ideas.
- Identify the main methodological difficulties that arise in political analysis and know how to deal with them using the existing tools.
- Students should be able to integrate knowledge and face the complexity of making judgements based on information that may be incomplete or limited and includes reflections on the social and ethical responsibilities associated with the application of their knowledge and judgements
- Using the appropriate criteria make an individual evaluation of reports, documents and research carried out by third parties.
- Work in international and interdisciplinary teams whose members have different origins and backgrounds.

Resultats d'aprenentatge

1. CE7.5 Understand the control logic of alternative explanations
2. Compare hypotheses using the different methods available
3. Define a research problem
4. Define an appropriate research strategy for a problem
5. Define concepts

6. Demonstration reading comprehension for specialist texts in English.
7. Develop leadership skills.
8. Draw up a theoretical framework
9. Generative innovative ideas.
10. Students should be able to integrate knowledge and face the complexity of making judgements based on information that may be incomplete or limited and includes reflections on the social and ethical responsibilities associated with the application of their knowledge and judgements
11. Understand the characteristics of scientific knowledge
12. Understand the limitations and possibilities of each research strategy
13. Understand the problems that can emerge when defining a research problem and know how to deal with them
14. Understand the problems that may emerge when defining concepts and how to deal with them
15. Using the appropriate criteria make an individual evaluation of reports, documents and research carried out by third parties
16. Work in international and interdisciplinary teams whose members have different origins and backgrounds.

Continguts

What is scientific knowledge? What is an academic paper?

Quoting, plagiarism and tools to organize your references

How to define a research problem, a theoretical framework and your hypotheses

Conceptualization and operationalization

Conceptualization and measurement through surveys

Research design for hypothesis testing

Comparative research designs

Case studies

Experimental research designs

Metodologia

The module is structured in three different kinds of seminars:

- 1) seminars dealing with methodological questions related to the research process
- 2) research in practice seminars, where researchers and professors of the department will present their past or current research projects
- 3) students presentations of their own research process presented in a written assignment

All sessions require previous reading of the indicated texts and an active participation of students. These are necessary conditions to create an informed dialog and a stimulating environment to discuss the different methodological issues involved in any research process.

Activitats formatives

Títol	Hores	ECTS	Resultats d'aprenentatge
Tipus: Dirigides			

Seminars	60	2,4	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16
Tipus: Supervisades			
Tutorials	50	2	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14
Tipus: Autònomes			
Reading, writing	137,5	5,5	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16

Avaluació

To be graded students must have attended at least 80% of all sessions with punctuality. Grading will be based in the following elements:

- Participation in class discussions 20%
- Exam 50%
- Three written assignments 30%

Activitats d'avaluació

Títol	Pes	Hores	ECTS	Resultats d'aprenentatge
Assignments	30	0	0	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16
Exam	50	2,5	0,1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16
Participation and presentations	20	0	0	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16

Bibliografia

Della Porta, Dontaltea y Michael Keating 2008, Approaches and methodologies in the social sciences, Cambridge: CUP

Hancké, B. 2009, Intelligent research design: a guide for beginning researchers in the social sciences Oxford : Oxford University Press

Hay, Collin 2002, Political Analysis: A critical introduction, Houndmills: Palgrave

Isernia, Pierángelo 2001, Introduzione alla Riceca Politica e Sociale, Bologna: Il Mulino.

Johnson, J. and R. 1995 Joslyn Political Science Research Methods, Washington: CQ Press, 3rd ed.

Katzer, J. 1998, Evaluating Information. A Guide for Users of Social Science Research, Boston: MacGraw Hill

King, G., R. O. Keohane and S. Verba 1999, Designing Social Enquiry, Princeton: Princeton University Press

Pollock, P. 2009 The essentials of political analysis, Washington: CQ Press, 3rd ed.