



STUDY PROGRAMME

European Interdisciplinary Studies, Natolin campus (Advanced Academic Master)

YEAR

2023-2024

COURSE TITLE

Research Methods / Méthodes de recherche

SEMESTER

1, 2

COURSE PROFESSOR(S)

BOBROWICZ Barbara, EXADAKTYLOS Theofanis, LONGHURST Kerry, MINK Georges, MOORHOUSE Roger, WOLCZUK Kataryna, SZOSTAK Rick, VAN ELSUWEGE Peter, WINAND Pascaline

ACADEMIC ASSISTANT(S)

STEINGASS Sebastian

COURSE TYPE

Master's Thesis and Research Methods

MAJOR(S)

Not applicable

ECTS CREDITS

16

TEACHING HOURS

20

INDIVIDUAL & GROUP STUDY TIME

400

TUTORIAL(S)

COEFFICIENT

2

LANGUAGE(S)

EN, FR

COURSE OBJECTIVE

The research methods modules offer a multifaceted research training programme which is principally designed to help students complete their Master's Thesis successfully. The knowledge and skills provided are tailored to the interdisciplinary and international nature of Natolin studies and students. Topics include research design, policy analysis, interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research, content and discourse analysis, surveys, process tracing, effective interviewing, statistical analysis, historical research, and legal analysis.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students who complete this course will be expected to demonstrate:

- An ability to identify a research problem that is interesting and relevant from an academic and/or a policy/societal viewpoint;
- An ability to narrow down a complex topic to formulate feasible research questions and design and pursue an autonomous research project such as a Master's thesis, making use of appropriate methodologies, concepts and theories and drawing, where appropriate, on several disciplines such as history, political science, law, economics and international relations;
- An ability to review the current literature relevant to their research topic and to make sensible use of it in their research;
- An ability to autonomously gather, sift, assess, and interpret information from multiple sources, including secondary literature as well as primary sources such as official documents, statistics, surveys, and expert interviews;
- An ability to formulate and develop a coherent and reasoned stance, justifiable conclusions, specific policy recommendations and/or historical arguments on the basis of referenced evidence, sufficient and relevant data;
- A capacity to identify appropriate qualitative and/or quantitative research methods to answer their research questions, including content and discourse analysis, interviewing,

process tracing, surveys, statistics, project evaluation, legal analysis, historical analysis, and interdisciplinary analysis;

- A capacity to situate research projects on a continuum ranging from intradisciplinary, multidisciplinary, cross-disciplinary, interdisciplinary, and transdisciplinary approaches and to choose the approach best suited to their research;
- An informed appreciation of the key drivers, costs and benefits of interdisciplinary research and the skills needed to integrate insights from different academic disciplines;
- An ability to select relevant disciplines for their research topic or problem, to develop a theoretical framework and to combine research methods between disciplines;
- Presentational (clarity and concision), stylistic, and analytical skills when presenting their findings.

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION

None.

TEACHING METHOD(S)

E-learning. The online modules are complemented by on-site consultations and tutorials. Individual consultations concerning research methods are done by the respective supervisors in the context of the Master's thesis.

ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

Students complete a Master's Thesis according to rules outlined in the Study Regulations and Dispositions particulières. The thesis must be between 12,000-18,000 words in length. For more specific information please consult Section 4.2. of the Study Regulations and the Dispositions particulières.

COURSE CONTENTS

For a detailed description of modules, please consult the course outline.

Introductory modules on (1) How to do an MA thesis, (2) Fundamentals of research design.

Modules on specific research methods:

- Introduction to surveys
- Advanced document analysis (content and discourse analysis)
- Process tracing
- Policy analysis
- Introduction to Interviews
- Basic qualitative analysis
- Legal analysis
- Historical research
- Theory and Practice of interdisciplinarity research

Autonomous completion of the Master's thesis under the guidance of a supervisor.

COURSE MATERIALS (readings and other learning resources/tools)

Cf. Course Outline.