



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2019

8,384: Social Science Methodology: Research Design

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Decentral - Group examination paper (all given the same grades) (75%)

Decentral - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (25%)

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[8,384,1.00 Social Science Methodology: Research Design](#) -- Englisch -- [Emmenegger Patrick](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

Basic knowledge of quantitative social science methods

Course content

This course introduces students to issues of research questions and design, social science methodology and causality. The course is not primarily concerned with specific data analysis techniques (methods). Rather, the focus is on social science methodology, which is the concern with the logical structure and procedure of scientific inquiry. Put differently, this course discusses how to develop a plan for carrying out a given study and examines the challenges researchers face in this process (the development of research goals, ontological and epistemological assumptions, sources of causal leverage, case selection, selection bias etc.).

The course is organized in two sections: The first section (before the break) provides an introduction to research design in case of quantitative large-N research (including experiments and designs using observational data). In the second section (after the break), students are asked to develop their own research design in small groups and conduct an empirical analysis based on this research design.

Course structure

Weekly two-hour meetings

Course literature

The course (first section) is mainly based on:

Gerring, John (2012). *Social Science Methodology: A Unified Framework*. 2nd Edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Gerring, John and Dino Christenson (2018). *Applied Social Science Methodology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

In addition, we will discuss a series of empirical analyses (journal articles) that use state-of-the-art research designs. The journal articles will be made available on StudyNet.

Additional course information

A research assistant will be available throughout the course to support students in case of technical or statistical problems.

Examination information



Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/2)

Examination time and form

Decentral - Group examination paper (all given the same grades) (75%)

Remark

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Examination-aid rule

Term papers

- Term papers must be written without anyone else's help and in accordance with the known quotation standards, and they must contain a declaration of authorship.
- The documentation of sources (quotations, bibliography) has to be done throughout and consistently in accordance with the APA or MLA standards. The indications of the sources of information taken over verbatim or in paraphrase (quotations) must be integrated into the text in accordance with the precepts of the applicable quotation standard, while informative and bibliographical notes must be added as footnotes (recommendations and standards can be found, for example, in METZGER, C. (2017), Lern- und Arbeitsstrategien (12th ed., Cornelsen Schweiz).
- For any work written at the HSG, the indication of the page numbers both according to the MLA and the APA standard is never optional.
- Where there are no page numbers in sources, precise references must be provided in a different way: titles of chapters or sections, section numbers, acts, scenes, verses, etc.
- For papers in law, the legal standard is recommended (by way of example, cf. FORSTMOSER, P., OGOREK R. et SCHINDLER B. (2018, Juristisches Arbeiten: Eine Anleitung für Studierende (6. Auflage), Zürich: Schulthess, or the recommendations of the Law School).

Supplementary aids

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Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

2. Examination sub part (2/2)

Examination time and form

Decentral - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (25%)

Remark

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Examination-aid rule

Practical examination

No examination-aid rule is necessary for such examination types. The rules and regulations of the University of St. Gallen apply in a subsidiary fashion.

Supplementary aids

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Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

Examination content

Students are asked to develop their own research design in small groups and conduct an empirical analysis based on this



research design.

The examination consists of two parts. First, students (in small groups) are expected to present their work in class and receive feedback to further develop their research designs and empirical analyses (25%). Second, students (in small groups) are expected to write a term paper (75%).

Examination relevant literature

The complete reading list is available in the course syllabus (on StudyNet by the end of week 14)

Please note

We would like to point out to you that this fact sheet has absolute priority over other information such as StudyNet, faculty members' personal databases, information provided in lectures, etc. When will the fact sheets become binding?

- Information about courses and examination time (central/decentral and grading form): from the start of the bidding process on 24 January 2019
- Information about decentral examinations (examination-aid rule, examination content, examination relevant literature): after the 4th semester week on 18 March 2019
- Information about central examinations (examination-aid rule, examination content, examination relevant literature): from the start of the enrolment period for the examinations on 08 April 2019

Please look at the fact sheet once more after these deadlines have expired.