



## Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Autumn Semester 2022

### 7,368: Qualitative Research: Design, Methods and Analysis

ECTS credits: 4

#### Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (80%)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - Presentation (individual) (20%)

Examination time: term time

#### Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[7,368,1.00 Qualitative Research: Design, Methods and Analysis](#) -- Englisch -- [Nentwich Julia](#) , [Schneider Tanja](#)

#### Course information

#### Course prerequisites

This course is ideal for students, who soon start writing an empirical Master's thesis using qualitative research methods or plan any other empirical study using qualitative methods. In the course, the necessary knowledge and central competences about research designs and methods of qualitative social research can be acquired. But of course, having a concrete interest in qualitative methods up front is not a necessary prerequisite for participating in and also benefiting from this course!

#### Learning objectives

- Participants become familiar or refresh the fundamentals of qualitative social research including knowledge of basic principles of qualitative-interpretative research and common methods for qualitative data collection and analysis;
- Participants become competent in developing a research design of a qualitative-interpretative research study and choosing appropriate approaches to data collection and analysis;
- Participants gain first experiences in actually conducting selected methods for data collection and analysis as part of their own research study;
- Participants learn how to critically reflect about the potential and limits of the use of qualitative-interpretative research in the political sciences and beyond.

#### Course content

The seminar introduces Master's students to the basics of qualitative social research and accompanies students in the conception of qualitative research projects related to their Master's thesis research project (or any other qualitative research project). The participants learn about different epistemological approaches of qualitative social research and are invited to position their work within these. In a further step, the participants develop a research design and choose appropriate approaches for data collection and analysis. For this purpose, the seminar introduces central data collection and data analysis methods of qualitative social research (interviews, group discussions, participant observation, document analysis, visual methods, grounded theory, thematic/content and discourse analysis). To illustrate the theoretical part of the seminar, well-known examples from qualitative social research are presented with a focus on studies from the field of political sciences but also business and organization studies, sociology and social psychology. Parallel to the ongoing seminar, the participants engage with the methodologies and collect first practical experiences. These experiences are reflected in the seminar. Step-by-step students develop their own research design. This research design is presented and discussed in class and serves as the basis for the written seminar paper.

#### Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

The course follows on from the course 'Qualitative Methoden' (BIA) held at Bachelor level and provides a refresher and an extended, in-depth introduction to the design of qualitative research projects. After this introduction, the focus of the course is on



qualitative research methods including different methods for data collection and analysis. In parallel, participants conduct a small empirical mini-project (related to their Master's thesis or another chosen topic). The last session at the end of the semester is reserved for the presentation and reflection of the student's research projects.

Students are expected to read the compulsory literature, conduct minor assignments in class and at home and prepare two presentations, one on a research design relevant to their work and one on the research design they have developed. Like this, students will receive continuous feedback on the development of their research design.

## Course literature

The course literature will be made available via StudyNet. There will be a compulsory text for each module, so **please check the studynet pages already before coming to the first seminar!**

## Additional course information

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## Examination information

### Examination sub part/s

#### 1. Examination sub part (1/2)

##### Examination time and form

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (80%)

Examination time: term time

##### Remark

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##### Examination-aid rule

Term papers

Written work must be written without outside help according to the known citation standards, and a declaration of authorship must be attached, which is available as a template on the StudentWeb.

Documentation (quotations, bibliography, etc.) must be carried out universally and consistently according to the requirements of the chosen/specified citation standard such as e.g. APA or MLA.

The legal standard is recommended for legal work (cf. by way of example: FORSTMOSER, P., OGOREK R., SCHINDLER B., Juristisches Arbeiten: Eine Anleitung für Studierende (the latest edition in each case), or according to the recommendations of the Law School).

The reference sources of information (paraphrases, quotations, etc.) that has been taken over literally or in the sense of the original text must be integrated into the text in accordance with the requirements of the citation standard used. Informative and bibliographical notes must be included as footnotes (recommendations and standards e.g. in METZGER, C., Lern- und Arbeitsstrategien (latest edition)).

For all written work at the University of St.Gallen, the indication of page numbers is mandatory, regardless of the standard chosen. Where page numbers are missing in sources, the precise designation must be made differently: chapter or section title, section number, article, etc.

##### 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 (individual) (20%)

Examination time: term time

### Remark

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### Examination-aid rule

Presentations

In presentations, aids for visual presentation can be used. These aids can be specified or restricted by the lecturers.

### Supplementary aids

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### Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

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## Examination content

### 1. Examination paper written at home (80%), individual mark

The paper describes the basic outline of research design (e.g. for a Master's thesis). The outline describes the epistemological positioning, the research design with research question, procedure, sampling and methods. Furthermore, first experience with the respective methodology is reflected.

### 2. Presentation (20%), individual mark

The research design is continuously developed over the course of the semester. Two presentations allow for feedback on the student's work. First, students present and discuss a research design of a study in their specific area of interest. Second, they present a work-in-progress-version of their research design in the last session of the seminar.

## Examination relevant literature

All relevant examination literature will be made available on StudyNet by 30 September 2022.



## Please note

Please note that only this fact sheet and the examination schedule published at the time of bidding are binding and takes precedence over other information, such as information on StudyNet (Canvas), on lecturers' websites and information in lectures etc.

Any references and links to third-party content within the fact sheet are only of a supplementary, informative nature and lie outside the area of responsibility of the University of St.Gallen.

Documents and materials are only relevant for central examinations if they are available by the end of the lecture period (CW51) at the latest. In the case of centrally organised mid-term examinations, the documents and materials up to CW 42 are relevant for testing.

Binding nature of the fact sheets:

- Course information as well as examination date (organised centrally/decentrally) and form of examination: from bidding start in CW 34 (Thursday, 25 August 2022);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for decentralised examinations: in CW 42 (Monday, 17 October 2022);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised mid-term examinations: in CW 42 (Monday, 17 October 2022);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised examinations: two weeks before the end of the registration period in CW 45 (Monday, 7 November 2022).