

Academic Year: (2019 / 2020)

Review date: 19-07-2018

Department assigned to the subject: Department of Social Sciences

Coordinating teacher: SANDELL , FRANK RICKARD

Type: Compulsory ECTS Credits : 6.0

Year : 2 Semester : 2

STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO HAVE COMPLETED

N.A

COMPETENCES AND SKILLS THAT WILL BE ACQUIRED AND LEARNING RESULTS.

General:

- * Ability to work in groups
- * Ability to communicate ideas in oral and written form
- * Capacity to organize and plan research and inquiry both individually and/or in groups
- * Capacity to organize and analyse complex information.
- * Understand existing theory and to understand the main views in academic debates and identifying the relevant pieces of empirical evidence used to sustain positions.

Specific

Ability to:

- ¿ Formulate a research problems/question
- ¿ Develop concepts and typologies to help analysing a specific research topic.
- ¿ ¿Theorize¿: Construct theory and provide explanations addressing a research problem/question on an individual basis.
- ¿ Extract hypotheses from a theory
- ¿ Find data and define measures that address a specific research problem
 - o Identify, organize, and analyze information in a critical and systematic way
- ¿ Identify methods for analysing data and measurement.
 - o Knowledge of quantitative and qualitative techniques and ability to choose which is most adequate to apply in different fields of social sciences.
- ¿ Hypothesis testing
 - o Explore the relationship between theory, methods, and the broader goals of research.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS: PROGRAMME

The main goal is to prepare the students, and provide them with basic skills, to undertake rudimentary research and inquiry in the field of social sciences with a special emphasis on questions in the area of international studies like:

- * International economy
- * Globalization
- * International inequality
- * Supranational institutions
- * International policy making
- * Historical legacies
- * Migration and assimilation
- * Pandemics
- * Climate change
- * Poverty
- * Organized crime
- * Etc...

The course focuses on teaching the students the meaning and relevance of theory for inquiry and

research in the social sciences. All aspects of the research process are covered such as:

- * Research Questions
- * Theories
- * Hypotheses
- * Research design and hypothesis-testing
- * Evidence
- * Implications

Particular emphasis is put on the art of theorizing -- the technique of theory construction -- with an aim to explain social and societal phenomena. The course will provide the students a first contact with how to use theory, data and methods in a coherent way to enable a systematic study of a social or societal phenomenon. The course will show how questions through theorising can be turned into theory. Theories motivate hypotheses which in turn can be contrasted by means of collection of empirical evidence and data. We will assess the feedbacks between empirical evidence and theories. We aim to show how new or better evidence shape theories, and how theories also discipline the enquiry into the social world by affecting measurement instruments, or by focussing the attention on specific types of evidence. We will discuss what measurement means, what guides measurement, and the problems of various sorts of evidence and the alternative research designs involved (experimental, comparative historical, statistical). We will then elaborate on how evidence informs the generation development of theory and hypotheses with a view to make causal claims that can aid policy making and policy strategies at all levels of society.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND METHODOLOGY

The course is divided in theoretical and practical sessions. The theoretical sessions are a mixture of lecturing and discussion of readings given in advance of each theoretical session. Students should be prepared to take notes on the readings and to engage in discussion on the readings.

The practical classes consist of two blocks. Both blocks are concerned with how to theorize and research. Each student will carry out one group research project and one individual research paper.

There are three main tasks for the students to carry out to get a final grade.

- 1) Participating actively in the group assignments and discussions, and carry out the group research project in a favorable fashion.
- 2) Carry out the individual research project satisfactorily. This exercise consist in producing a short research paper of no more than 2000 words.
- 3) Pass the final exam

ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

Final Exam 30 % of the grade

Continuous assessment;

- 1) Research project in groups 30 (of which 10% is auto evaluation). The evaluation is based on a oral presentation of results.
- 2) Individual research paper 40% (2000 words)

% end-of-term-examination: 30

% of continuous assessment (assignments, laboratory, practicals...): 70

BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Abbott, Andrew Methods of Discovery: Heuristics for the Social Sciences, Norton, 2004
- Andrew Gelman and Jeronimo Cortina A Quantitative Tour of the Social Sciences, California University Press, 2009
- Andrew Gelman and Jeronimo Cortina A Quantitative Tour of the Social Sciences, California University Press, 2009
- Booth, Wayne C., Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams The Craft of Research , University of Chicago Press, 1995
- Charles Lave and James G. March An Introduction to Models in the Social Sciences , University Press of America, 1974
- Durkheim, Emile Rules of Sociological Method, The Free Press, 1982
- Maddison, Angus The World Economy. A Milleneal Perspective , OECD, 1996
- Merton, Robert K. On Theoretical Sociology, The Free Press, 1967
- Morgan, Mary S. The World in a Model. How Economists Work and Think , Cambridge University Press, 2012
- Patricia Leavy Research Design, The Guilford Press, 2017

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- Schelling, Thomas C. Micromotives and Macrobehavior , Norton, 1978
- Stinchcombe, Arthur Constructing Social Theories, University of Chicago Press, 1987
- Swedberg Richard The Art of Social Theory: The Context of Discovery , Stanford University Press, 2014

ADDITIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Coyle, Diane GDP. A Brief but Affectionate History , Princeton University Press, 2014
- Crosby, Alfred W. The Measurement of Reality. Quantification and Western Society, 1250-1600, Cambridge University Press, 1997
- Goffman, Erving The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life, Doubleday, 1957
- McCloskey, Deirdre N. The Rhetoric of Economics , University of Wisconsin Press, 1998
- Mills, C. Wright The Sociological Imagination, Oxford University Press, 2000