QUANTITATIVE METHODS OF SOCIAL RESEARCH

Course tutor(s)

Szymon Czarnik, Ph.D.

Lecturer in the Institute of Sociology, Jagiellonian University, and Tischner European University. Received his Ph.D. from Jagiellonian University in 2007 with a dissertation entitled *Justice and Equality in Division of Earned Goods* based on the experimental study of income redistribution. Teaches classes in methods of empirical social research and statistical data analysis. Besides methodological topics his fields of interest include game theory and praxeology. He has worked as a consultant and analyst in many research projects. He has also translated a number of books, by authors like Ludwig von Mises, Richard Pipes, Hernando de Soto, and Thomas Sowell.

Description

The central theme of the course is the process of gathering, understanding, and making use of quantitative empirical data in the social sciences and related fields. Topics proceed from the conceptual preparation of research to the review of particular methods and techniques of data collection and then to the basics of data analysis and presentation. The overall attitude is thus practical. The discussed quantitative methods include various types of surveys, experiments, and sociometric techniques.

Type of course

Elective/mandatory for EU, CEE and Europeanization and Governance in CEE. Students need to take one of the two methodology seminars: this course and one oriented towards qualitative methodology taught in the spring semester.
Mandatory for CEE Studies: Research Track.

Number of ECTS points

4.5 ECTS

Prerequisites (if applicable)

N/A

Intended Learning Outcomes

Students should be acquainted with the requirements of successive stages of conducting quantitative social research, recognize reasons for using particular methods of data collection, as well as be able to design an outline of a research project addressing a given problem of interest, prepare appropriate research tools and interpret obtained results.

EK1: has ordered and extended knowledge of terminology used in the humanities and social sciences (K_W03+)

EK2: has advanced knowledge of methods and research tools as well as techniques used to collect and analyse data (K_W04++)

EK3: has enhanced research skills which include formulating and analyzing research problems, choosing appropriate research methods and techniques, presenting and disseminating the results of research which allows to resolve problems in the field of European Studies (K_U03 +++)

EK4: has the ability to gain knowledge and research skills independently following the instruction given by course tutors and supervisors (K_U04 ++)

EK5: has the ability to conceive, design, implement and undertake research using appropriate methodologies (K_U19 ++)

Course communication

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Notices and announcements
By e-mail.

COURSE ORGANIZATION

Autumn Semester
Time and Place: will be posted by CES in the online calendar

Course type:
Seminar and lecture

Contact hour:
30 hours

Balance of ECTS credits:
30 hours of lectures and seminars (contact with the teacher)

Didactic methods used:
Lecture, presentation, discussion

Mode and Criteria of assessment of learning outcomes

Assessment
To get credit for the course students are expected to:
- actively participate in classes (10% of the final mark)
- prepare a short questionnaire (25%)
- prepare analysis of dynamic data from statistical yearbooks (15%)
- pass the final test exam (50%).
Criteria for evaluating students' assignments are: methodological correctness, originality, attention for visual details, and timeliness.

STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE

No.	Title of the session	Date	Format (lecture, seminar, combination?)
1	Methodology of social sciences. Overview. Research projects.		L+S
2	Definitions and hypotheses. Conceptualization and operationalization.		L+S
3	Measurement. Scales, indices, and typologies.		L+S
4	Survey 1. Types of surveys. Research scheme.		L+S
5	Survey 2. Questionnaire.		L+S
6	Survey 2. Questionnaire. Continued.		L+S
7	Building questionnaire. Consultation class.		S
8	Public opinion polls and sampling.		L+S
9	Basic data analysis and reporting results.		L+S
10	Basic data analysis and reporting results. Continued		L+S
11	Using secondary data.		L+S
12	Causality and experiment.		L+S
13	Causality and experiment. Continued		L+S
14	Modeling social situations. Sociometry and Game Theory		L+S
15	Summary class.		S