

Leiden University
Political Science

Research Methods in Political Science

September-October 2012
BA2, Semester 1, Blok 1
5 ECTS, Level 300
Course Code: 6442RMPSY

Schedule

Lectures

Mon., Sep. 10 – Oct. 15, 15.00-17.00, Gorleaus 03 (except Oct. 15: KOG/1A44)
Thu., Sep. 6 – Oct. 18, 15.00-17.00, Gorleaus 03 (except Sep. 6: 13.00-15.00 in KOG/C131)

Docent: **Michael F. Meffert** (m.f.meffert@fsw.leidenuniv.nl, 071-527-3862, 5B11)
Office Hours: Thu., 14.00-15.00, and by appointment

Workgroups

Workgroup 1: Wed., Sep. 5 - Oct. 17, 9.00-11.00, 6C03 [c]
Workgroup 2: Wed., Sep. 5 - Oct. 17, 9.00-11.00, 1A33 [b]
Workgroup 3: Wed., Sep. 5 - Oct. 17, 11.00-13.00, 1A27 [a] (except Sep. 26 & Oct. 17: 0A28 & Oct. 10: SA49)
Workgroup 4: Wed., Sep. 5 - Oct. 17, 11.00-13.00, 6C03 [c]
Workgroup 5: Wed., Sep. 5 - Oct. 17, 13.00-15.00, SA21 [b]
Workgroup 6: Wed., Sep. 5 - Oct. 17, 13.00-15.00, 1A21 [a]

[a] Docent: **Fransje Molenaar** (molenaarff1@fsw.leidenuniv.nl)

[b] Docent: **Ferry Koolen** (j.b.c.koolen@umail.leidenuniv.nl)

[c] Docent: **Kavita Ziemann** (kziemann@fsw.leidenuniv.nl)

Description

This course is an introduction to the theory and practice of empirical research methods in political science. Students become familiar with the core concepts and basic principles of political science research. They not only learn why research methods are important but also how to use them. Among the topics covered in this course are theory, empirical reasoning, the development of testable and verifiable research questions, and the operationalisation of key concepts and terms. In addition to the lectures, students will attend corresponding workgroups. In the workgroups, students will discuss and evaluate research articles and use SPSS to conduct empirical research.

Method of Instruction

The course consists of lectures and workgroups. Students are expected to attend both lectures and workgroups. Students must sign up in time for the course and for workgroups (numbers are limited).

Course Requirements

Statistiek I: Beschrijven en Presenteren
Statistiek II: Analyse en Onderzoek

Literature

- Jarol B. Manheim, Richard C. Rich, Lars Willnat, Craig Leonard Brians, and James Babb. 2012. *Empirical Political Analysis*. Pearson.
- Textbook already used in statistics course: George Argyrous. 2011. *Statistics for Research: With a Guide to SPSS. 3rd ed.* Sage. (or equivalent)
- Selected articles and chapters (available via Blackboard).

Examination

A final exam at the end of the course will cover material from the literature, the lectures, and the workgroups. The final score will be based on the **final exam (70%)** and **weekly individual homework assignments (opdrachten)** in the workgroups (30% in total). Please note that there will be a re-exam for the final exam, but the assignment grades are final.

Exam	Date	Time & Place
Final Exam (Tentamen)	Tue., Oct. 23, 2012	13-16, USC
Inzage eindentamen	To be announced	To be announced
Re-Exam (Hertentamen)	Wed., Jan. 9, 2013	13-16, USC
Inzage hertentamen	To be announced	To be announced

The weekly homework assignments will be announced during the workgroups in weeks 1 to 6 and are due (unless noted otherwise) at the beginning of the following workgroup session (submission via Ephorus, as hardcopy, and/or via Blackboard). The final assignment grade will be based on the best four assignments (the lowest score will be dropped).

Blackboard Grade Center (“My Grades”)

The grades listed in the Blackboard Grade Center provide a regularly updated record of grades.

Disclaimer: The grades listed in the Grade Center are not an official record of grades, and no legal rights may be derived from the information contained in the Grade Center. In case of a discrepancy or a mistake, the grades listed on exams, assignments, and the official transcript take precedence over the grades listed on Blackboard. If there are questions about the completeness and correctness of the grades in the Grade Center, please contact the instructor.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is understood as presenting, intentionally or otherwise, someone else’s words, thoughts, analyses, argumentations, pictures, techniques, computer programs, etc., as your own work. Plagiarism is not allowed and has serious consequences. Students must be familiar with Leiden University’s rules about plagiarism. They are available at: <http://www.regulations.leiden.edu/education-students/plagiarism.html>

The departmental rules and procedures with regard to plagiarism can be found at: <http://www.fsw.leidenuniv.nl/politicologie/studenten/bachelorleiden/regelingen/fraude.html>

Important note: Plagiarism occurs in both of the following situations:

- **Quoting work from other (and outside) sources without attribution;**
- **Copying the work of others (i.e., other students) when completing individual assignments.**

Detailed Schedule: Topics and Literature

Please note: The schedule is preliminary and might be subject to minor adjustments.

Week 1 – Introduction, Scientific Theory, and Conceptual Models

Wed., Sep. 5, Workgroup 1
Thu., Sep. 6, Lecture 1

- *Empirical Political Analysis*, ch. 1
- Allison, Graham T. 1969. "Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis." *American Political Science Review* 63 (3): 689–718.

Week 2 – Causality and Hypotheses

Mon., Sep. 10, Lecture 2
Wed. Sep. 12, Workgroup 3
Thu., Sep. 13, Lecture 3

- *Empirical Political Analysis*, ch. 2-3
- Moravcsik, Andrew. 2000. "The Origins of Human Rights Regimes: Democratic Delegation in Postwar Europe." *International Organization* 54 (2): 217–252.

Week 3 – Operationalization and Research Design (1)

Mon., Sep. 17, Lecture 4
Wed. Sep. 19, Workgroup 3
Thu., Sep. 20, Lecture 5

- *Empirical Political Analysis*, ch. 4-6
- Wantchekon, Leonard. 2003. "Clientelism and Voting Behavior: Evidence from a Field Experiment in Benin." *World Politics* 55 (3): 399–422.
- *Optional*: Mintz, Alex, Steven B. Redd, and Arnold Vedlitz. 2006. "Can We Generalize from Student Experiments to the Real World in Political Science, Military Affairs, and International Relations?" *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 50 (5): 757–776.

Week 4 – Operationalization and Research Design (2)

Mon., Sep. 24, Lecture 6
Wed. Sep. 26, Workgroup 4
Thu., Sep. 27, Lecture 7

- *Empirical Political Analysis*, ch. 7, 8, 10
- van der Meer, Tom, Rozemarijn Lubbe, Erika van Elsas, Martin Elff, and Wouter van der Brug. 2012. "Bounded volatility in the Dutch electoral battlefield: A panel study on the structure of changing vote intentions in the Netherlands during 2006–2010." *Acta Politica*, forthcoming.
- Ansolabehere, Stephen, Shanto Iyengar, Adam Simon, and Nicholas Valentino. 1994. "Does Attack Advertising Demobilize the Electorate?" *American Political Science Review* 88 (4): 829–838.

Week 5 – Quantitative Research

Mon., Oct. 1, Lecture 8
Thu., Oct. 4, Lecture 9

- *Empirical Political Analysis*, ch. 12-13
- Seawright, Jason, and John Gerring. 2008. "Case Selection Techniques in Case Study Research." *Political Research Quarterly* 61 (2): 294–308.
- O'Dwyer, Conor. 2004. "Runaway State Building: How Political Parties Shape States in Postcommunist Eastern Europe." *World Politics* 56 (4): 520–553.

Week 6 – Qualitative Research

Mon., Oct. 8, Lecture 10
Wed. Oct. 10, Workgroup 5
Thu., Oct. 11, Lecture 11

- *Empirical Political Analysis*, ch. 19-21
- Kelsall, Tim. 2005. "Truths, Lies, Ritual: Preliminary Reflections on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Sierra Leone." *Human Rights Quarterly* 27: 361–391.

Week 7 – Statistical Hypothesis Testing and Academic Writing

Mon., Oct. 15, Lecture 12
Wed. Oct. 17, Workgroup 6
Thu., Oct. 18, Lecture 13

- *Empirical Political Analysis*, ch. 15-18 (skim), 24-25 (read)