



Introduction to International Relations Research Methodology

Educational subject description sheet

Basic information

Study programme Stosunki międzynarodowe (English programme)		Didactic cycle 2023/24
Speciality -		Subject code 14SMES.12K.11281.23
Organizational unit Faculty of Political Studies and Journalism		Lecture languages English
Study level First-cycle programme		Course type Obligatory
Study form Full-time		Block Major subjects
Education profile General academic		
Subject coordinator	Joanna Rak	
Lecturer	Joanna Rak	
Period Semester 2	Activities and hours <ul style="list-style-type: none">Lecture: 15, ExamClasses: 15, Graded credit	Number of ECTS points 5

Goals

Code	Goal
C1	Introduce and account for how to plan and design international relations research on topics interesting to students.
C2	Introduce the elements of research process and explain their role in a research project.
C3	Introduce methodological and theoretical approaches useful in international relations research.
C4	Show how to conduct and improve international relations research.

Subject learning outcomes

Code	Outcomes in terms of	Learning outcomes	Examination methods
Knowledge - Student:			
W1	A student knows and understands the advanced methods, theories providing theoretical grounding, and tools, including data acquisition techniques, appropriate for international relations, allowing them to describe relations between international structures and institutions and the processes taking place within them and between them.	SME_K1_W03	Written exam, Project, Presentation of the theoretical thesis
Skills - Student:			
U1	A student is able to organize their own and team work, critically assess the degree of its advancement, independently undertake and initiate research activities (especially in the field of international relations).	SME_K1_U03	Project, Multimedia presentation
U2	A student is able to prepare typical written works in English in the field of international relations (a research project and a book review), using specialized terminology and using basic theoretical approaches, as well as various sources and studies to disseminate their research projects and results.	SME_K1_U04	Written exam, Project, Report, Presentation of the theoretical thesis
Social competences - Student:			
K1	A student is ready to critically analyze their knowledge and available sources and information, and supplement them based on expert opinions and scientific sources.	SME_K1_K01	Project

Study content

No.	Course content	Subject learning outcomes	Activities
1.	Research Process in International Relations: Defining Research Field and Formulating Problems	W1	Lecture, Classes
2.	Procedural Guideline Regarding the Research Process.	W1, U1	Lecture, Classes
3.	Research Goals, Questions, Hypotheses, and Field. From Research Questions to Data	W1	Lecture, Classes
4.	Literature Searching, Reviewing, and Formulating Theoretical Grounds for International Relations Research	W1, U2, K1	Lecture, Classes
5.	Qualitative Research Design. Collecting Qualitative Data. The Analysis of Qualitative Data.	W1	Lecture, Classes
6.	Quantitative Research Design. Collecting Quantitative Data. The Analysis of Quantitative Data.	W1	Lecture, Classes
7.	Theorizing Empirical Observations.	W1, U2	Lecture, Classes

Additional information

Activities	Teaching and learning methods and activities
Lecture	Lecture with a multimedia presentation of selected issues, Problem-based lecture, Discussion
Classes	Lecture with a multimedia presentation of selected issues, Discussion, Case study, Workshop method, Project method, Work in groups

Activities	Credit conditions
Lecture	<p>1. Class attendance and participation: Class attendance is not required but recommended for this course.</p> <p>2. Assessment: Everyone is expected to take a written exam in the form of a book review. The exam ranges (1) the topics introduced during the course by the instructor, (2) the required reading (Kothari, C.R. (2004), <i>Research Methodology: Methods and Techniques</i>, 2nd edition, New Age International Publishers, New Delhi.), and (3) one book selected by a student. Students are expected to choose and read a book that concerns international relations theories, methodology or presents empirical research on international relations.</p> <p>Grading scale: very good (5.0): excellent knowledge, very well mastered skills and well-developed personal and social competences good plus (4.5): in-depth knowledge, well-learned skills and well-developed personal and social competences good (4.0): good knowledge, well-learned skills and developed personal and social competences sufficient plus (3.5): satisfactory knowledge, learned skills and personal and social competences satisfactory (3.0): basic knowledge, mastered the most important skills and developed basic personal and social competences unsatisfactory (2.0): unsatisfactory knowledge, unmastered skills and uneducated personal and social competences</p>
Classes	<p>1. Class attendance and participation: Class attendance is required for this course. Everyone is expected to come to class prepared and participate actively in class discussion. This participation is to be based on an informed familiarity and thoughtful engagement with the assigned reading.</p> <p>Absences are to be made up for during the course instructor's office hours. Then, a student has to talk through the issues assigned to a missed class.</p> <p>2. Credit: (1) Everyone is expected to deliver an oral presentation on a selected topic during the course. (2) Students collect points for their active participation in classes.</p> <p>6 points – 5 5 – 4,5 4 points – 4 3 points – 3,5 2-1 points – 3 no points – 2</p> <p>The final mark will be the grade point average, i.e., the arithmetic average of the two grades: (1) an oral presentation and (2) active participation in classes.</p> <p>Grading scale: very good (5.0): excellent knowledge, very well mastered skills and well-developed personal and social competences good plus (4.5): in-depth knowledge, well-learned skills and well-developed personal and social competences good (4.0): good knowledge, well-learned skills and developed personal and social competences sufficient plus (3.5): satisfactory knowledge, learned skills and personal and social competences satisfactory (3.0): basic knowledge, mastered the most important skills and developed basic personal and social competences unsatisfactory (2.0): unsatisfactory knowledge, unmastered skills and uneducated personal and social competences</p>

Literature

Obligatory

1. Kothari C. R. (2004). Research Methodology: Methods and Techniques, 2nd edition.
2. Paja B. (2022). Introduction to Research Methods: A Hands-on Approach, 2nd edition.
3. Punch F. K. (2014). Introduction to Social Research: Quantitative and Qualitative Approaches, 3rd edition.

Optional

1. Devin, Guillaume (ed.) (2018), Resources and Applied Methods in International Relations.
2. Klotz, Audie and Deepa Prakash (eds.) (2008), Qualitative Methods in International Relations: A Pluralist Guide.
3. Cheek J., Øby E. (2022). Research Design: Why Thinking About Design Matters.

Calculation of ECTS points

Activities	Activity hours*
Lecture	15
Classes	15
Reading the indicated literature	40
Report preparation	10
Preparation for the exam	10
Preparation for classes	10
Preparation of a project	30
Preparation of a multimedia presentation	20
Student workload	Hours 150
Number of ECTS points	ECTS 5

* academic hour = 45 minutes

Efekty uczenia się dla kierunku

Kod	Treść
SME_K1_K01	The graduate is ready to krytycznego analizowania posiadanej wiedzy oraz dostępnych źródeł i informacji oraz uzupełniania ich w oparciu o ekspertyzy i źródła naukowe
SME_K1_U03	The graduate can organizować pracę własną i zespołową, krytycznie oceniać stopień jej zaawansowania, samodzielnie podejmować i inicjować działania badawcze (zwłaszcza w zakresie nauki o stosunkach międzynarodowych)
SME_K1_U04	The graduate can przygotowywać typowe prace pisemne w języku polskim i języku obcym w zakresie nauki o stosunkach międzynarodowych, posługując się specjalistyczną terminologią i wykorzystując podstawowe ujęcia teoretyczne, a także różne źródła i opracowania
SME_K1_W03	The graduate knows and understands w zaawansowanym stopniu metody i teorie wyjaśniające relacje między strukturami i instytucjami międzynarodowymi