Syllabus

International and European Standards of Research

Master Program, 2 year

Lecturers: Dr. Tatiana Kyselova, Prof. Dr. Roman Petrov

Total number of hours: 60

Final grade: pass/fail based on the work for the whole semester

Course description

The aim of the course is to transfer a complex set of research and writing skills to students to enable them independently design, conduct and write up research projects in their chosen area of research focusing on EU Studies.

The course will lead students through all steps of research and writing starting from the choice of their topic to submitting dissertation according to KMA formal requirements and international standards of research in broad area of social studies. All the assignments are based on the topics that students choose for their actual master dissertations, thus allowing to start design and structuring their research projects under guidance of the lecturer and feedback of their peers.

The learning outcomes of the course focus on the following skills 1) critical thinking; 2) working with the literature 3) design of research 4) writing of texts 5) oral presentation 6) time management.

Course schedule

Dates	***Classes and topics***
	Course introduction
	Topic 1. Motivation for academic research
	Topic 2. Choosing your topic.
	Topic 3. Plagiarism and academic integrity
	Topic 4. Time-management skills for master thesis
	Topic 5. Giving feedback
	Topic 6. Logic of academic (and policy) research
	Topic 7. Finding your research question, writing an abstract
	Individual consultations
	Topic 8. Working with the literature and bibliography managers
	Topic 9. Academic writing - literature review
	Topic 9. Academic writing - literature review
	Topic 10. Methods of research for political science and interdisciplinarity
	Topic 11. Writing research proposal
	Topic 12. Oral presentation skills
	Oral presentations
	Oral presentations
	Research proposal.

Course Outline

Topic 1. Motivation of master students for international and European academic research

1. Introductions
2. Overview of the course, syllabus and rules
3. Personal motivation of a researcher
4. What MA thesis can offer students?

Topic 2. Choosing your topic

1. Experience of writing large research paper
2. Criteria for choosing your research area
3. Algorithm of research

Topic 3. Plagiarism and academic integrity

1. Definitions: Plagiarism, academic integrity
2. KMA regulations on academic integrity
3. Comparison between KMA regulations and regulations of other Universities
4. Case-studies of plagiarism and academic integrity

Topic 4. Time-management skills for master thesis

1. Challenges in managing time efficiently
2. Time-management tools for academic research and writing
3. Planning for efficient research – developing “your” plan of action
4. Major tools and software for efficient time-management
5. Developing the plan for submission of the thesis – Gantt chart

Topic 5. Giving feedback

1. Types and principles of giving feedback
2. Sandwich model of feedback
3. Practical exercises

Topic 6. Logic of academic (and policy) research

1. Research paradigms and placing your research within them
2. Criteria for choice of focus and topic
3. Connecting international standards and KMA requirements
4. Spiral dynamics of research
5. Research circles

Topic 7. Finding your research question, writing an abstract

1. Problems that make the focus of dissertation

2. Formulating the research question
3. Linking research question and the structure of the text
4. Research question and other concepts - “aim and goals of the research”, “hypothesis”
5. Abstract and research question
6. Practical exercises to word the research question

Topic 8. Working with the literature and bibliography managers.

1. Quality of sources – ranking of the sources in English language
2. Quality of sources – ranking of the sources in Ukrainian language
3. Search for sources (search engines – Google Scholar, databases JStor, EBSCO, ProQuest, etc)
4. Systematic monitoring and automated alerts (TOC, Zetoc, alerts for databases and individual journals)
5. Systematization and storage
6. Making notes, effective and ethical use of notes in the text

Topic 9. Academic writing – literature review

1. When and how to start writing.
2. Creative writing and prompts
3. Technique of “expanded writing”
4. Rewriting, editing and polishing the paper
5. Literature review and its purposes
6. Literature review and theoretical framework

Topic 10. Methods of research for political science and interdisciplinarity

1. Overview of research methods in Political Science
2. Empirical research and its logic
3. Experience of qualitative research – how it frames the writing
4. Interdisciplinary approach to research.
5. What is interdisciplinarity
6. How interdisciplinarity can be used for MA thesis in political science

Topic 11. Writing research proposal for Master thesis

1. Structural elements and purpose of research proposal
2. Formal requirements
3. Peer-groups on research proposals

Topic 12. Oral presentation skills

1. Power-point presentations – proc and cons
2. Best and worst experiences of public speaking
3. Tips for better presentation

Recommended literature:

Эко, Умберто. Как написать дипломную работу. Книжный дом, 2003
Derntl, Michael. "Basics of research paper writing and publishing." *International Journal of Technology Enhanced Learning* 6.2 (2014): 105-123.
Hartley, James. *Academic writing and publishing: A practical handbook*. Routledge, 2008.
Morley, John. Academic Phrasebank, 2014
Evera, Guide to Methods for Students in Political Science

Boscoloa, Pietro, Barbara Arféb, and Mara Quarisaa. "Improving the Quality of Students' Academic Writing: An Intervention Study." *Studies in Higher Education* 32 (August 2007): 419-438; Academic Writing. The Writing Lab and The OWL. Purdue University; Academic Writing Style. First-Year Seminar Handbook. Mercer University; Bem, Daryl J. Writing the Empirical Journal Article. Cornell University; Candlin, Christopher. *Academic Writing Step-By-Step: A Research-based Approach*. Bristol, CT: Equinox Publishing Ltd., 2016; College Writing. The Writing Center. University of North Carolina; Style. College Writing. The Writing Center. University of North Carolina; Invention: Five Qualities of Good Writing. The Reading/Writing Center. Hunter College; Sword, Helen. *Stylish Academic Writing*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2012; What Is an Academic Paper? Institute for Writing Rhetoric. Dartmouth College.

A Sample Research Proposal with Comments

A research project or thesis will take at least two semesters to complete. Prior to starting a research, i.e. enrolling in the first semester research course, students must go through the proposal stage, during which students will develop their proposal and have it reviewed by his/her research advisor. This means that students need months of planning and background research work before the start of the first semester research. During the proposal stage, students should discuss their research interests, identify a research topic, conduct preliminary literature review and develop a project proposal. The proposal should discuss problem statement, objectives, research methodology, research activities, and a time schedule in about 3-5 pages. A sample proposal is attached here for your reference.

Comment

A Conceptual Framework for Scheduling Constraint Management

Provide a brief and meaningful title to your project

1. Introduction

Every construction project is unique and has its own operating environment and sets of technical requirements. As a result, the execution of a construction project is subject to numerous constraints that limit the commencement or progression of field operations, which invariably have significant negative impact on overall project performance. By definition, constraints refer to any condition, such as temporal/spatial limitations and safety/quality concerns, which may prevent a project to achieve its goals. Successful execution and control of a construction project relies on effective identification and management of constraints through master planning and short-term look-ahead scheduling. While the master schedule provides a global view of a project and the overall execution strategy, a look-ahead schedule offers a detail account of operational constraints and a detailed plan showing work to be done within a relatively short time window. Ideally, these detailed schedules should reflect actual field conditions and provide field personnel with operation instructions free of constraints and conflicts (Hinze 2008). This look-ahead scheduling and constraint analysis procedure is also a critical component of the last-planner methodology proposed by Ballard (2000). This research project will provide an overview of state-of-art schedule constraint analysis practice during look-ahead scheduling. In addition, it will propose a conceptual framework for managing constraints.

Background or introduction section provides a description of the basic facts and importance of the research area - What is your research area, the motivation of research, and how important is it for the industry practice/knowledge advancement?

2. Problem Statement

The importance of developing a constraint-free and reliable work plan has long been recognized by the industry. However, numerous construction projects are still plagued by delays and cost overruns, which can frequently be traced to ineffective identification and

Problem statement provides a clear and concise description of the issues that need to be addressed - What is the specific problem in that research area that you will address (e.g. lack of understanding of a subject, low performance …)?

treatment of constraints. First, when a constraint is not properly identified during scheduling, subsequent conflicts in the field are inevitable. Today's projects are becoming more and more technically complex and logistically challenging, which exposes construction operations to even more complex constraints. Second, the traditional scheduling methods, bar charts and Critical Path Method (CPM) which are widely used as a basis for constraint analysis, greatly limit our capability in modeling and resolving constraints