



Cluj School of Public Health

Faculty of Political, Administrative and Communication Sciences
Babes-Bolyai University
Cluj-Napoca

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Advanced Research Methods Module

Spring 2014

Course lecturer: Gabriel Bădescu, PhD

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Course overview:

The course aims to offer students a good understanding of the principles and concepts of social inquiry and analysis, and covers four broad topics: the foundation of social science, research design, data collection, and data analysis. By the end of the course, students will be able to formulate good research questions and design appropriate research, propose adequate data collection methods, analyze quantitative data using computer-based skills (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences), prepare a research proposal, and critically evaluate the quality of evidence in published social research. Data analysis techniques will be conducted by using SPSS.

Course correspondence:

All course materials, readings, and grades will be available on the Moodle platform. Students' drafts for the individual and group projects should be submitted through the Moodle platform.

Course readings:

A set of readings are assigned for each course and seminar (please refer to page 3 and 4). Make sure to read all the required readings as most of seminar activities will rely on them. If you have difficulties in retrieving or accessing any of the assigned readings, please contact Oana Pop, in a timely manner (at least 48 hours in advance), for assistance.

Course evaluation:

Students must achieve at least 50% of the maximum grade for both the course and the seminar in order to pass the overall examination. The evaluation throughout the module will be a mix of:

- 1) **Active participation (10%):** Attendance is not mandatory. However, you are strongly advised to participate in each course and seminar, as you will be able to get valuable

feedback on your group and individual papers (see more below). Only active participation will be marked.

- 2) **Course evaluation(50%):** It will consist of a written exam based on the assigned readings, the information presented during lectures, and the activities and discussions held in class.
- 3) **Individual project (20%):** You will have to write a short research report by using the template which has been provided to you (see the ARM_Individual Project Template document) and one of the provided data sets. You will have to prepare parts of your paper and hand them in at different times throughout the module in order to get feedback on your work. The drafts should be uploaded on the Moodle platform, before 23:59 pm in the night before the seminar in which the drafts will be discussed. The final form of the individual project should be uploaded on Moodle before 23:59 pm on April 2nd, 2014.
- 4) **Group project (20%):** You will have to develop a research proposal by using the template which has been provided to you (see the ARM_Research Proposal Template document). Each student has been assigned to one of the four project teams, through randomization (please refer to Table 1). You will have to prepare parts of your paper and hand them in at different times throughout the module in order to get feedback on your work. When project drafts are due, only one member of each team should send them. The drafts should be uploaded on the Moodle platform, before 23:59 pm in the night before the seminar in which the drafts will be discussed. The final form of the group project should be uploaded on Moodle before 23:59 pm on April 2nd, 2014.

Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4
Dana Macra	Cezar Fătu	Raul Cobârzan	Irina Mărculescu
Cristian Olinca	Raluca Turdean	Georgiana Crişan	Eliza Florea
Andreea Cetean	Alexandra Moldovan	Simina Bîle	Florina Lupşea
Roxana Vlad	Florina Nistor	Serena Mureşan	Toderascu Florin-Junior
Adelaida Zafir	Andreea Silaghi	Alexandra Bocoş	Ioana Cazan
		Mădălina Coman	Alexandra Rus

Table 1–Students’ randomization to project teams

Course reevaluation:

Students can improve their seminar grade by resubmitting their individual papers and the course grade by retaking the exam. The grades obtained for the group project and active participation are not subjected to reexaminations.

Academic honor and integrity:

When conducting your assignments, you are expected to demonstrate the highest level of ethical and academic conduct. Any attempt of academic fraud (plagiarism or any type of cheating) is a serious offence which could result in failing the class as well as expulsion from the program. **It is your responsibility, as a student, to ensure that your work is not the subject of plagiarism, and to seek clarification wherever you are uncertain.** More information on the types of plagiarism and strategies for avoiding them can be found on the College of Political, Administrative and Communication Sciences website -

<http://polito.ubbcluj.ro/resurse/formulare-regulamente/reguli-etice-si-deontologice/>

Date & time	Topic	Readings
March 14th 9:00-13:30	<i>Course 1</i> - Introduction. What is social science research? Basic principles of social science research. Readings:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Babbie E. 2010. The practice of social research . Wadsworth. Cengage Learning. Ch. 1 and 2. http://bib.convdocs.org/docs/41/40473/conv_1/file1.pdf Booth, Colomb& Williams. 2008. The craft of research - Ch. 1 and 2. University of Chicago. http://www.andrewwaugh.com/courses/pols455/craftofresearch.pdf
March 17th 9:00-13:30	<i>Course 2</i> - Research strategies. Research designs. Concepts in social research. Operationalization and measurement. Indexes and scales.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Babbie E. 2010. The practice of social research . Wadsworth. Cengage Learning. Ch. 4-6. http://bib.convdocs.org/docs/41/40473/conv_1/file1.pdf
March 18th 9:00-13:30	<i>Course 3</i> - Causality in quantitative and qualitative methods. Correlations vs. causality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> G. King, R. Keohane, S. Verba, (1994). Designing Social Inquiry, Princeton U. Press, 1994. Chapter 1 and 2.
March 19th 11:00-15:30	<i>Course 4</i> - Experiments and quasi-experiments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Babbie E. 2010. The practice of social research . Wadsworth. Cengage Learning. Ch. 8. http://bib.convdocs.org/docs/41/40473/conv_1/file1.pdf
March 20th 10:00-14:30	<i>Course 5</i> - Quantitative social research. Designing quantitative social research. Descriptive quantitative research. Hypotheses testing and evaluation research.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Babbie E. (2007). The Practice of Social Research. Cengage Learning. Chapter 4 http://bib.convdocs.org/docs/41/40473/conv_1/file1.pdf
March 21st 9:00-13:30	<i>Course 6</i> - Sampling. Probabilistic vs. non-probabilistic samples.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Babbie E. 2010. The practice of social research . Wadsworth. Cengage. Ch. 7 http://bib.convdocs.org/docs/41/40473/conv_1/file1.pdf Sampling methods. Statistics Canada. Available at: http://www.statcan.gc.ca/edu/power-pouvoir/ch13/5214895-eng.htm
March 24th 8:00-16:30	<i>Course 7</i> - Analyzing quantitative data. Exploring causal models. Measures of associations and bivariate tables. <i>Course 8</i> - An introduction to linear regression models. Incorporating categorical information into regression models.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Babbie E. 2010. The practice of social research . Wadsworth. Cengage. Ch. 14 http://bib.convdocs.org/docs/41/40473/conv_1/file1.pdf Hardy, M. and A. Bryman (2004). Handbook of Data Analysis. Sage. Chapters 8 and 9.

March 25th 9:00-11:00	<i>Course 9</i> - Logistic regression models.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hardy, M. and A. Bryman (2004). Handbook of Data Analysis. Sage. Chapter 11.
March 26th 11:00-15:30	<i>Course 10</i> - Factor analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alan Taylor. A brief introduction to factor analysis. Available at: http://www.psy.mq.edu.au/psystat/other/FactorAnalysis.PDF
March 27th 10:00-14:30	<i>Course 11</i> - The rational choice approach to social modelling. An introduction to game theory.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Martin J. Osborne, An introduction to game theory, Oxford University Press, 2003, pp. 1-49 Available at: http://www.ius.edu.ba/sfadda/an_introduction_to_game_theory.pdf
March 28th 9:00-13:30	<i>Course 12</i> - Professionalism and scholarly customs. Ethical issues in social research. Several scientific controversies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Sokal Social Text Hoax http://www.physics.nyu.edu/faculty/sokal/lingua_franca_v4/lingua_franca_v4.html Borat the author--Failures of peer review http://www.popsci.com/article/science/nonsense-paper-cites-michael-jackson-and-ron-jeremy-actually-gets-published Earl Babbie (2007). The Practice of Social Research. Cengage Learning. Ch. 3 http://bib.convdocs.org/docs/41/40473/conv_1/file1.pdf
March 31st 9:00-13:30	<i>Course 13</i> - Writing a research proposal. Writing a research report.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Booth, Wayne C., Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams (2008). The Craft of Research. 3rd edition. Chicago Guides, to Writing, Editing and Publishing. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. Chapter 11. Available at http://www.andrewwaugh.com/courses/pols455/craftofresearch.pdf
April 1st 9:00-13:30	<i>Course 14</i> - The art of the research in social sciences. Review of the main topics.	
April 2nd 11:00-13:00	Written examination	