Course Description

This course offers an opportunity for undergraduate students to review and experience the practice of both quantitative and qualitative research methodologies in the social sciences.

During the semester we will address the nature of the quantitative and qualitative research methodologies in the context of political science, with plentiful opportunities to discuss the implications of the choices made by various studies in designing, implementing and reporting on the findings. Practically, the course intends to encourage students to develop skills to collect and analyze quantitative and qualitative data, and consequently design a methodologically-solid research study.

The course combines frontal learning with a practical application that will allow the students a hands-on experience in applying the material taught.
Course Goals

The aim of the course is to provide the students with basic knowledge of research methodology and the quality criteria employed to review research, based on both quantitative and qualitative tools.

Grading

- 2 Midterm papers in couples – 30% of final grade (15% each)
- Final paper 70% of final grade
- Mandatory attendance
- Active participation

Learning Outcomes

Basic knowledge on Quantitative and Qualitative methodology in the Social Sciences.
A clear sense on how to construct a research design, pose research questions and compose a literature review for future courses.

Lecturer Office Hours

By request - schedule via e-mail

Niva.Golan@post.idc.ac.il

Tutor Office Hours

By request - schedule via e-mail

yuvalbartovidc@gmail.com

Teaching Assistant

Mr. Yuval Bartov
yuvalbartovidc@gmail.com
**Reading List**

### Week 1 - Introduction to Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods: Characteristics and Limitations


**Recommended reading** -


### Week 2 – Quantitative Data Collection: Existing Statistics and Official Statistics as Tools in Political Research and the Question of Reliable Data


**Recommended reading** -


### Week 3 – Quantitative Data Collection: Survey Research and the Study of Public Opinion as Tools in Political Research


**Recommended reading** -

surveys. *Social Science Computer Review*, 20, 22-30

**Week 4 – Quantitative Data Analysis: Statistical Measurements and Descriptive Statistics**


**Week 5 – Qualitative Data Collection: The Classic Participant Observation and the Interview as Tools in Political Research**


**Recommended reading –**


**Week 6 – Qualitative Data Collection: Focus Groups and Documentation as Tools in Political Research**


**Recommended reading –**


**Week 7 – Qualitative Data Analysis Tools**

Week 8 – Review class & In-Class exercise!

Week 9 – Designing the Quantitative/Qualitative Research: Case selection, Hypotheses and Generalization


Week 10 – Quantitative Cross-Case vs. Qualitative Within-Case Study Research


Week 11 – Quality, Morality, Ethics and Anonymity in Quantitative and Qualitative Research


Recommended reading –


Week 12 – The Art of Mixed Method Research Designs

Week 13 — Summary: Traditional Methodology vs. Big Data: The Relevance of Qualitative Research Today