Course Description

The course offers an opportunity for advanced postgraduate students to experience the practice of qualitative research in the social sciences. During the semester we will address the nature of qualitative research in the context of political science, and offer plentiful opportunities to discuss the implications of the choices made by various studies in designing, implementing and reporting on the findings. Practically, the course aims to help students to develop skills to design a qualitative research study, and consequently collect and analyze qualitative data.

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

The goal of the course is to provide the students with basic knowledge of qualitative methodology and the quality criteria employed to review research based on qualitative methodology.

Grading

3 Midterm papers - 30% of final grade (10% each).

Final paper - 70% of final grade.

A passing grade (60) [in all 3 midterm papers and final paper] is mandatory in order to pass the course!

Mandatory attendance as well as active participation are crucial in order to succeed in the course!

Lecturer Office Hours

By request - schedule via e-mail
nivagolan@post.runi.ac.il

Tutor Office Hours

By request - schedule via e-mail
yuvalbartovidc@gmail.com

Teaching Assistant

Mr. Yuval Bartov
yuvalbartovidc@gmail.com

Additional Notes

For administrative inquiries - Contact Mr. Yuval Bartov at: yuvalbartovidc@gmail.com
Reading List

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


Week 2 – Theoretical Frameworks in Qualitative Research


Week 3 – Data Collection: The Classic Participant Observation


Week 4 – Data Collection: The Interview as a Tool in Political Research


Week 5 – Data Collection: Focus Groups as a Tool in Political Research


Colucci, E. (2007). "Focus groups can be fun": The use of activity-oriented questions in focus group discussions. *Qualitative Health Research, 17*(10), 1422-1433.

**Week 6 – Data Collection: Formal Documents, Historical Archives and the Media as Tools in Political Research**


**Week 7 – Qualitative Data Analysis Tools** (Class Exercise in Qualitative Data Collection and Analysis – Compulsory Participation)


**Week 8 – Designing the Research: Case selection, Hypotheses and Generalization**


**Week 9 – Qualitative Case Study Research**


**Week 10 – Process Tracing as a Qualitative Tool to Determine Causality**


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


Parry, O., & Mauthner, N. S. (2004). Whose data are they anyway? Practical, legal and ethical issues in archiving qualitative research data. *Sociology, 38*(1), 139-152.

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**Week 12 – The Art of Mixed Method Research Designs**


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**Week 13 – Summary: Qualitative Research versus Big Data: The Relevance of Qualitative Research Today**
