Methodology of Socio-political Research in Asia

Title of the course	**Methodology of Contemporary Asian Studies**		
Title of the Academic Programme	Business and Politics in Modern Asia		
Type of the course	Obligatory		
Prerequisites	None		
ECTS workload	6		
Total indicative study hours	Directed Study	Self-directed study	Total
	64	184	228
Course Overview	The goal of this course is to provide a brief introduction to the methodology of political science research. The course begins with the introduction to the basic principles of political inquiry. Then we consider the basic concepts of statistics and probability. We also discuss such topics as exploratory data analysis and data visualization, statistical hypothesis testing, linear and generalized linear regression models, and causal inference. R programming language is used as a primary tool for data processing and statistical computations. Students are assumed to be familiar with high school math program, have basic computer literacy and be willing to work hard to learn the essentials of data analysis.		
Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)	After completing this course, students are expected to be able • to read (and understand!) most academic PS articles • to speak the language of data fluently, that is, • to understand by yourself and explain to others such words as ”variable”, ”distribution”, ”regression”, ”p-value”, etc. • to design a quantitative political study • to choose statistical methods appropriate to your substantive research problem • to use R programming language for statistical computations		
Teaching and Learning Methods	The course consists of lectures (14 hours) and tutorials (22 hours). All course participants also must write a short research paper (10-15 pages) in which they will try to apply some methods of the course to the topic in cross-cultural social research that they are interested in. The most important aspects of the paper to be graded are the creativity of the research idea, the operationalization and proper statement of hypotheses, and the appropriate use of statistical methods covered within the course. Final project paper must be written alone, independent of other student projects.		
Indicative Assessment Methods and Strategy	Home assignments (cumulative grade - 70%) Final project presentation (30%) Late assignments will be graded down (one point on a 1-10 scale per day of delay). If you plagiarize, you will fail. You may not recycle papers used in other		

	classes.		
Readings / Indicative Learning Resources	<u>Mandatory</u> Field A., J. Miles, and Z. Field. 2012. Discovering Statistics Using R. SAGE publications ltd. <u>Optional</u> Fox, J. and S. Weisberg S. (2010). An R companion to applied regression. SAGE publications ltd.		
Indicative Self- Study Strategies	**Type**	**+/–**	**Hours**
	Reading for seminars / tutorials (lecture materials, mandatory and optional resources)	+	15
	Assignments for seminars / tutorials / labs	+	15
	E-learning / distance learning (MOOC / LMS)	–	
	Fieldwork	–	
	Project work	+	20
	Other (please specify)	–	
	Preparation for the exam	+	24
Academic Support for the Course	Academic support for the course is provided via a course Dropbox folder, which contains all recommended readings, presentations of lectures, and replication code and data for empirical examples.		
Facilities, Equipment and Software	We will use R programming language as a tool for data processing and statistical computations		
Course Instructor	Associate Professor B.O. Sokolov (Lectures/Seminars); Lecturer Veronika Kostenko (Seminars)		