<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Title of the course</strong></th>
<th>Research Seminar</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Title of the Academic Programme</strong></td>
<td>Political Science and World Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Type of the course</strong></td>
<td>Research in Political Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prerequisites</strong></td>
<td>This course is elaborated for the second-year undergraduates and is taught from the first module to the third one. Students should be familiar with basic components of a research design (research question, research theory, hypothesis, operationalization).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ECTS workload</strong></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total indicative study hours</strong></td>
<td><strong>Directed Study</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Course Overview</strong></td>
<td>This course highlights, first of all, the scientific component of research activity, rather than pursuits to answer any substantive political questions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The <strong>first part</strong> of this course (first seven classes) is aimed at both reminding students of the main components of a research design and helping them with writing their own literature reviews. The <strong>second part</strong> (last eight classes) gets students acquainted with three kinds of research strategies (case study, comparative and experimental) which are extremely in demand in contemporary political science (statistical research strategy will be considered within Quantitative Methods course).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This course consists of seven topics covering all 15 seminars (30 hours). These topics are listed below in the section “Content and Structure of the Course”.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)</strong></td>
<td>Undergraduates will know how to work on a research project, namely, course work in tandem with a supervisor.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Students will know how to effectively start working on course work in terms of text preparation and will be able to write their own literature review based on analyzing relevant scientific books and articles.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Students will understand the logic of different research strategies and may distinguish between different kinds of case study (which is a particular research strategy).</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Finally, undergraduates will get understanding of which methods are more relevant for a particular kind of a research strategy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Teaching and Learning Methods</strong></td>
<td>This course is consistent of seminars only. Seminars are held in interactive ways including discussions, group works, working with some kind of handout materials. Some seminars are supported by either PowerPoint or LaTeX presentations.</td>
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## Content and Structure of the Course

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>№</th>
<th>Topic / Course Chapter</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Directed Study</th>
<th>Self-directed Study</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lectures</td>
<td>Tutorials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction to the Course</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Communication with a Supervisor</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Rules for Writing Scientific Texts. Literature Review</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Styles of an Empirical Research and Written Test</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Case Study Research Strategy</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Comparative Research Strategy</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Experimental Research Strategy</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total study hours</strong></td>
<td>76</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>30</td>
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</table>

### Indicative Assessment Methods and Strategy

The **cumulative grade** for this course is calculated as follows:
- 65% for the seminar participation (participation in discussions, debates, etc.);
- 35% for a written test.

The written test will be conducted after first seven seminars. This test will include both closed- and open-ended types of questions which will cover the content of first seven classes.

The cumulative grade is calculated by the following formula: $0.65 \times \text{a grade for the seminar participation} + 0.35 \times \text{a grade for the written test}$.

The final grade for this course is calculated as follows:
- 65% for the cumulative grade;
- 35% for the final exam.

If a student gets the cumulative grade of 6 or higher, he or she is allowed not to pass an exam and his or her cumulative grade becomes, therefore, the final one.

The final exam is a written test that consists of questions and topics discussed during the seminars.

### Readings / Indicative Learning Resources

*If deviations from the readings are required, they will be announced in class or by email. Such announcements always trump this reading list.*

#### Theme 1. Introduction to the Course

#### Seminar 1. Introductory Class

Students will be provided with the information concerning the main content of Research Seminar on the second year. An assessment strategy will be discussed. Students will be informed about the necessity to prepare a course work in form of literature review devoted to a specific topic which should be chosen jointly by a student and his or her supervisor.
Seminar 2. Revision of the First Year

What is a scientific research? What are the main features of political research? What is an inference? Which types of inference exist? What is research question? What is research theory? What is literature review and why it is an important part of a research project?

Obligatory readings:

Optional (but not obligatory) readings:
2. 

Theme 2. Communication with a Supervisor

Seminar 3. Working with a Supervisor

How to choose and to get in touch with your supervisor? The DON’Ts while communicating with a supervisor. Supervisor’s and student’s obligations with respect to one another.

Obligatory readings:
2. 10 Rules for Writing Professional Emails. [https://www.city.ac.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/234354/Writing-Professional-Emails.pdf](https://www.city.ac.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/234354/Writing-Professional-Emails.pdf)

Theme 3. Rules for Writing Scientific Texts. Literature Review

Seminar 4. Motivation and Procrastination

How to keep yourself motivated while working on a (scientific) text? How to cope with procrastination? Which time management rule might be effective while working on a scientific project, namely, manuscript?

Obligatory readings:
Seminar 5. The Structure of a Scientific Text. Literature Review

What is typical structure of a scientific text in political science? Which forms literature review may take? How to create an effective review? How to solve the problem of too few sources and the problem of too many sources?

Obligatory readings:

Optional (but not obligatory) readings:

Seminar 6. Literature Review: An Example

Literature Review as a way to answer the research question.

Obligatory readings:

Theme 4. Styles of an Empirical Research and Written Test

Seminar 7. Styles of an Empirical Research

Styles of an Empirical Research.

Obligatory readings:

Seminar 8. Written Test

Students will have to complete the written test in class. The written test will include both closed- and open-ended questions and will cover the content of first seven seminars.
**Theme 5. Case Study Research Strategy**

**Seminar 9. Case Study and Process Tracing**

The essence of case study research strategy. Process tracing as a fruitful tool for analysing causal mechanisms in case studies.

**Obligatory readings:**

**Optional (but not obligatory) readings:**

**Seminar 10. Interpretative and Hypothesis-Generating Case Studies**

Consideration of interpretative and hypothesis-generating case studies.

**Obligatory readings:**

**Optional (but not obligatory) readings:**

**Seminar 11. Theory-Infirming Case Study**

Consideration of theory-infirming case study.

**Obligatory readings:**

**Optional (but not obligatory) readings:**

**Seminar 12. Deviant Case Study**

Consideration of deviant case study.

**Obligatory readings:**

**Theme 6. Comparative Research Strategy**

**Seminar 13. Comparative Research Strategy**

Consideration of comparative research strategy.

Obligatory readings:

**Theme 7. Experimental Research Strategy**

**Seminar 14. Field Experiment in Political Science**

Consideration of field experiment in political science.

Obligatory readings:

Optional (but not obligatory) readings:

**Seminar 15. Laboratory Experiment in Political Science**

Consideration of laboratory experiment in political science.

Obligatory readings:

Optional (but not obligatory) readings:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicative Self-Study Strategies</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>+/-</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading for seminars/tutorials (lecture materials, mandatory and optional resources)</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>34</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Support for the Course</td>
<td>Assignments for seminars / tutorials / labs</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
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<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>E-learning / distance learning (MOOC / LMS)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fieldwork</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Project work</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Preparation for the written test</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Preparation for the exam</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Academic support for the course is provided both via LMS and Dropbox, where students can find obligatory readings and the text of this program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facilities, Equipment and Software</th>
<th>A class with a laptop, a film projector and a sound system are required for the seminars.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

| Course Instructors | Aleksey Gilev, Associate Professor (Department of Political Science), agilev@hse.ru | Mikhail Turchenko, Lecturer (Department of Political Science), mturchenko@hse.ru |