**Course descriptor**

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| Title of the course | **Methodology of Contemporary Asian Studies** | | |
| Title of the Academic Programme | Business and Politics in Modern Asia | | |
| Type of the course[[1]](#footnote-1) | Compulsory | | |
| Prerequisites | None | | |
| ECTS workload | 6 | | |
| Total indicative study hours | Directed Study | Self-directed study | Total |
| 64 | 164 | 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. 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)[[2]](#footnote-2) | 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 | | |
| Indicative Course Content | 1. Design Types, Data Types, and Data Summarization 2. Basic Statistical Concepts 3. Exploratory Data Analysis and Visualization 4. Inference and Hypothesis Testing 5. Simple Regression Methods 6. Confounding and Effect Modification (Interaction) 7. Multiple Regression Methods | | |
| Teaching and Learning Methods | The course consists of lectures (14 hours) and tutorials (18 hours). All course participants also must write a short research paper (up to 10 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 | 5 home assignments (cumulative grade – 10% for each task)  Final project presentation (50%)  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[[3]](#footnote-3) | Mandatory:  Wilcox R R. Understanding and Applying Basic Statistical Methods Using R / R R. Wilcox. - Hoboken, New Jersey: Wiley; 2016. eBook<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/hselibrary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=4526801>  Optional:  [Field, A.](http://95.161.151.9/opac/index.php?url=/auteurs/view/8534/source:default) An adventure in statistics: The reality enigma / [A. Field](http://95.161.151.9/opac/index.php?url=/auteurs/view/8534/source:default) . – Los Angeles, London : SAGE, 2016 . – 746 p. – На англ. яз. - ISBN 978-1-4462-1045-1.  Field, A. Discovering statistics using R / A. Field, J. Miles, Z. Field . – Los Angeles : SAGE Publications, 2012 . – 957 p. – На англ. яз. - ISBN 978-1-446-20046-9 | | |
| Course Instructor | Associate Professor Veronika Kostenko (Lectures); Olga Strebkova (Seminars) | | |

1. ***Notes:***

   Type of the course - core (mandatory); optional or elective. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO) - for the academic programmes which are exposed to international accreditation or other forms of external evaluation, the list of ILO must be complemented with “Mapping of Programme and Course/module learning outcomes”. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Indicative Learning Resources - to be filled either in the Course descriptor or in the Course Syllabus. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)