**MODULE SPECIFICATION**

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| **Name of Module** | Research Methodology for Social Sciences  |
| **Parent School/Dept** | **Political Science and International Relations** |
| **Programme(s) where module is offered** | MA Diplomacy |
| **Status** (core, option, free choice) | Core | **Pre-Requisite Modules or Qualifications** | None |
| **FHEQ Level** |  | **Unit Value** | 8 ECTS | **Module Code** | **PD509** | **Module coordinator** | Sabina Cehajic-Clancy  |
| **Term taught** | Spring  | **Applicable From** | 2013 |
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| **Educational Aims of the Module** |
| The objective of this course is to equip students to understand thesis research methods, to prepare them for thesis research and to equip the students with knowledge and understanding on the main concepts of legal methodology.  |
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| **Module Outline/Syllabus** |
| * What is scientific research?
* Research Process and Design
* Operationalization, Variables, Scales of Measurement
* Sampling, Research Ethics
* Overview of qualitative methods
* Overview of Quantative methods
* Legal norms, validity, applicability, conflicts, concurrences and other related issues
* Application of Law; The process of subsumption
* Interpretation of legal norms and legal argumentation
* Theories of legal methodology
* Work on hypothetical cases – methods and approaches
* Referencing in scientific works
* Referencing in scientific works and assignment
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| **Student Engagement Hours** |
| **Type** | **Number per Term** | **Duration** | **Total Time** |
| Lectures | 64  | 90 minutes | 96 hours |
| Tutorials | 32  | 90 minutes  | 48 hours |
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| Total Guided/Independent Learning Hours | **120**  |
| Total Contact Hours | **90** |
| **Total Engagement Hours** | **200** |

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| **Assessment Method Summary** |
| **Type** | **Number Required** | **Duration / Length** | **Weighting** | **Timing/Submission Deadline** |
| Final Exam | 1 | 3 hours | 50% | End of semester  |
| Mid-semester test | 1 | 2 hours | 20% | Week 8 |
| Presentation | 1 | 1 hour  | 10% | Week 5  |
| Research paper | 1 | 10.000 wrd | 20% | Week 14 |

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| **Module Outcomes** |
| **Intended Learning Outcomes:**At the end of the Course, students should be able to:1. An understanding of the methods of scientific research.
2. A detailed understanding of the main components of thesis research, formulation of the scientific problem, scientific question and the hypothesis.
3. A practical understanding of variables scales of measurement and collection of data during scientific research.
4. Understanding of the main concepts of legal methodology.
5. An understanding of referencing and citing in scientific papers.
 | → | **Teaching and Learning Strategy:**1. Course readings and class discussion. (ILO: 1-5)
2. Individual and group presentations and discussions. (ILO: 1-5)
3. Classroom assignments and simulations. (ILO: 1-5)
4. Lecture/presentation by the instructor. (ILO: 1-5)
5. Tutorial classes on particular topics. (ILO: 1- 5)
6. Feedback on drafts of term paper (coursework)
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| → | **Assessment Strategy**1. Course work –class participation, oral presentation and discussion (10%) – ILO 1-5, term paper (20%) – ILO1-5,
2. Mid -term exam (20%) - (ILO: 1-3)
3. Final Exam – 50% (ILO: 1-5)
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| **Practical Skills**1. Advanced research skills;
2. Ability to conduct independent qualitative and quantitative research.
 | → | **Teaching and Learning Strategy:**1. Individual project assignment (PS: 1-2)
2. In-class research exercises and projects (PS: 1-2)
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| → | **Assessment Strategy**1. Written Exam (PS: 1-2)
2. Individual Project (PS: 1-2)
3. Research paper (PS: 1-2)
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| **Transferable Skills**1. Ability to conduct structured research, to develop research arguments and questions, ability to apply a research methodology, ability to conduct literature surveys
2. Clarity of written argument and presentation.
3. Ability to make correct referencing in scientific texts.
 | → | **Teaching and Learning Strategy:**1. Course readings and class discussion. (TS: 1, 2, 3)
2. Individual and group presentations and discussions. (TS: 1, 2, 3)
3. Classroom assignments and simulations. (TS: 1, 2)
4. Lectures/presentations by the instructor. (TS: 1, 2, 3)
5. Individual discussions/tutorials with students as needed and detailed feedback on their writings. (TS: 1-3)
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| → | **Assessment Strategy*** 1. Course work –class participation, oral presentation and discussion (10%) – TS:1-3, mid-term exam (20%) -TS: 1, term paper – (TS 2-3)

2. Final Exam – 50% (TS: 1-3) |
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| **Key Texts and/or other learning materials** |
| Judith Bell (2005). *Doing Your Research Project*. Open University Press. Sharon Hanson (2003). Legal Method and Reasonong. Routledge-Cavendish.**OTHER:**Relevant citation and referencing guides – Harvard style |
| **Please note:** This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the module and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module and programme can be found in the departmental or programme handbook. The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed annually by the University of Buckingham and may be checked by the Quality Assurance Agency. |
| **Date of Production** | 27 August 2013  |
| **Date approved by School Learning and Teaching Committee** |  |
| **Date approved by School Board of Study** |  |
| **Date approved by University Learning and Teaching Committee** |  |
| **Date of Annual Review** |  |