

UPL 504 PROTHESIS SEMINAR

Spring Semester 2015

Instructor: Prof. Dr. Melih Ersoy

INFORMATION ABOUT THE COURSE

This is a must course for the Ms students in Urban Policy Planning and Local Governments graduate program. The course covers a series of brief introductory seminars on various aspects of research design, but the particular emphasis will be placed on the development of individual research projects related to the tentative topic of their thesis study.

The major aims of the course are as follows:

- to convey an understanding of the relationship between theory/conceptual framework, methodology and research methods.
- to enable the students to elaborate their research program and plans of his/her thesis study and help them in problem formulation.
- to provide guidance and discuss the ways to tackle potential problems in both research and writing-up processes.

REQUIREMENTS

In this seminar course, the students are expected to carry out three written assignments focusing successively on integral parts of their individual research projects, and make a final in-class presentation of their research proposals. All three of the assignments are compulsory to complete the course. At the end of the term, a revised full paper (Assignment I+II+III) will be presented in a round table discussion with participation of the students and the members of the Department.

ASSIGNMENT 1: Preparation of a 1500 word research proposal covering

- a tentative topic of the thesis, the major research question and sub-questions,
- a discussion of the context and the problematic within which the research question(s) are addressed,
- a clear statement of the method(s) adopted to conduct the research
- a clear statement of the prospective contribution(s) of the research in the relevant field
- the possible findings of the research
- a preliminary statement of the stages of the proposed research

ASSIGNMENT 2: Each student will prepare a 5000-word literature review on the topic.

- Literature review -both critical and analytical
- Literature review should reveal explicit links between the literature and the topic of the thesis; and the design of the study;
- The reference list should be written appropriate to the referencing system of METU.

ASSIGNMENT 3: Each student will prepare a 5000-word first-draft of the research methodology of his/her research. This work should contain

- the possible range of methodologies/methods which might be utilized in tackling the research topic (... methods to be outlined, not to explained extensively)
- an adequate justification of the methodology/methods adopted for the research,
- the ways how the particular research method(s) are applied to the research,
- specification of the practical problems and issues are identified and discussed;
- where applicable, ethical considerations,
- where applicable, identification and discussion of the matters of reliability and validity,
- the awareness of the limitations/shortcomings of the research method utilized in the research,
- the relevant source of evidence used in the research,
- analysis of the data (empirical techniques that are used to analyze evidence).

SUBMISSION DATES

ASSIGNMENT 1: March 20, 2015

ASSIGNMENT 2: April 17, 2015

ASSIGNMENT 3: May 29, 2015

REVISED FINAL PAPER and PRESENTATION: Will be announced eventually

USEFUL RESOURCES

Benton, T. (1977), *Philisophical Foundation of Three Sociologies*, RKP, London. (HM26.B478)

Blaikie, N. (1993), *Approaches to Social Inquiry*, Polity Press. (H 62.B63.2007)

Blaikie, N. (2003) *Analyzing Quantitative Data: From Description to Explanation*. London, Thousand Oaks: Sage. (H62 B573 2003)

Bryman, A. and R.G. Burgess (1994) *Analyzing Qualitative Data*, London, New York: Routledge (HA29 A5828)

Creswell, J.W. (2003) *Research Design: Qualitative & Quantitative Approaches*. 2nd edition, Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage Publications (H62 C6963 2003)

Denzin N.K. and Y.S. Lincoln (eds.) (1998) *Collecting and Interpreting Qualitative Materials*, Thousand Oaks, London and New Delhi: Sage Publications. (H62 C566)

Hessler, R.M. (1992) *Social Research Methods*, St. Paul: West Pub. Co. (H61 H48)

Giele, J.Z. and Elder, G.H. (eds.) (1998) *Methods of Life Course Research: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches*, Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage Publications (H61.29 M47)

Gillham, B. (2000) *Case Study Research Methods*, London: Continuum Cassell. (H62 G5148)

Hyman, H.H. (1955) *Survey Design and Analysis: Principles, Cases and Procedures*. Glencoe, Ill., Free Press (H62 H92)

Keppel, G.(1980) *Introduction to Design and Analysis: A Student's Handbook*. San Francisco: W. H. Freeman (BF39 K46)

Laclau, E. (1977), *Politics and Ideology in Marxist Theory*, New Left Review Editions. (HX56, L33,1979)

Layder, D. (1993), *New Strategies in Social Research*, Polity Press.

Leedy, P.D. (2001) *Practical Research: Planning and Design*. Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Merrill (Q180.55 M4 L43 2001)

Moser, C.A. (1971) *Survey Methods in Social Investigation*, 2nd ed. New York, Basic Books (HN29 M62 1972)

Neuman, W.L. (2000) *Social Research Methods: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon (HM571 N48 2000)

Saroff, J.R. (no date) *Survey Manual for Comprehensive Urban Planning: The Use of Opinion Surveys and Sampling Techniques in the Planning Process*, College, Institute of Social, Economic and Government Research (HC107 A45 A465 no.19)

Strauss, A. and J. Corbin (1997) *Grounded Theory in Practice*. Thousand Oaks:Sage Publication (RA418 G768)

Sweezy, P.M. (1942-1968), *The Theory of Capitalist Development: Principles of Marxian Political Economy*, Monthly Review, New York. (HB97.5, S 974,1968)

Therborn, G (1977), *Science Class and Society*, London: NLB.