

5.0 credits	30.0 h + 20.0 h	2q
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Teacher(s) :	Rihoux Benoît ; Ait-Chaalal Amine ;
Language :	Français
Place of the course	Louvain-la-Neuve
Main themes :	The place of political science in the system of the sciences. Conceptualization and theorization. Modelling: description, explanation, prediction. Inventory of available methodologies. Research designs in the various fields of the discipline. Choice and implementation of a specific methodology for the realization of an effective project. Working on a articulated research reports.
Aims :	Firstly, to give an integrated view of the scientific methodology adapted to political science's specificities and to provide the student with an evaluative and critical capacity of research in the various fields of the discipline. Secondly, to put this methodology into practice in a critical way, relying on the methodological and technical assets of the previous years. Thirdly, to be able to choose a methodology adapted to a given subject, and also to carry out a well presented research report. <i>The contribution of this Teaching Unit to the development and command of the skills and learning outcomes of the programme(s) can be accessed at the end of this sheet, in the section entitled "Programmes/courses offering this Teaching Unit".</i>
Content :	- Module 1 (20h): Political science status. Kinds of discourses in political science. Science, protoscience, pseudoscience. Political science and the system of the sciences. Reductionism: from bio-politics to geopolitics. Interdisciplinarity, transdisciplinarity, multidisciplinary. Conceptualization, theorization, definition. Language and meaning. Semiotics, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, praxiology. Empirical, ontological and epistemical levels. Paradigm and theory. Modelling: description, explanation, prediction. Description: information, data, facts. Evaluation and operationalisation. Qualitative and quantitative measurements. Explanation: induction, inference, law. Determinism and contingency. Causation, implication, association. Structures, systems, models. Prediction: determinism and chaos. Formalization, axiomatization, simulation. Conclusion: inventory of available comparative, quasi-experimental and survey methodologies. Scope and limits of the various strategies of research Method: lectures, syllabus, written exam. - Module 2, plenary + interactive sessions (16 H): examples of "designs" of research: theoretical, empirical, methodological, choices. 8 contrasted kinds of strategies through concrete research published in the various fields of political science (international relations, comparative politics, public action). - Module 3: (2h, 12h monitorat for 3 audiences: international relations, compared policy, public action): preparation of an individual travail/rapport. Method: presentations by the teachers and the assistants. Evaluation of individual work (formal and substantive criteria); methodological guides, especially on line (on UCL-site); readings.
Other infos :	Pre-requisite: Political science
Cycle and year of study :	> Bachelor in Political Sciences: General > Preparatory year for Master in Political Sciences (all orientations) and for Master in Public Administration
Faculty or entity in charge:	ESPO