Study programme(s): Regional Master Program in Peace Studies
Study level: Graduate

Course title: Methodology of Peace Research

Professor (Surname, middle initial, name): Prof. Vasović D. Mirjana and Prof. Bešić Lj. Miloš

**Compulsory/Elective:** Compulsory

Number of ECTS: 6
Aim of the course

Providing essential knowledge in applied methods and techniques in the area of social sciences

## Outcome of the course

After the course students will be capable

- To define research question in accordance to theoretical framework
- To use secondary data for their own research
- To use basic statistical methods in their research
- To use basic qualitative methods in their research

## Content of the course

The course contain of 12 sessions. Each session is a complementary package of teaching and tutoring. In total, we will have 12 lectures (2 hours each) and the same number of tutoring, respectively. The content of the course is as follows:

- 1. Sources of data in peace researches (usage of international data sources, usage of secondary data)
- 2. Main epistemological issues in social research (objectivity, systematic, reliability, accuracy, empirical evidence; causality and functional relations as well as understanding)
- 3. The role of theory of peace in doing the research (conceptualization, creating theoretical framework, issue of theoretical adequacy)
- 4. Defining the research question (defining the problem of the research, main concepts, explicitly putting the research question)
- 5. Defining hypothesis (theoretical hypothesizing)
- 6. Operationalization and defining working hypothesis (transforming theoretical concepts into indicators)
- 7. Quantitative approach in social research (advantages and disadvantages, case analysis)
- 8. Basic statistical methods in social sciences univariate and multivariate statistics, using scales in social research
- 9. Qualitative approach (advantages and disadvantages, main problems, epistemological basics)
- 10. Method: individual and group interview
- 11. Method: content analysis (structural and substantial)
- 12. Writing scientific paper

## Literature

a) compulsory

Hoglund, K. and Oberg, M., 2011. Understanding Peace Research, Methods And Challenges, Routledge, London; Reader for the course (edited by Mirjana Vasović and Miloš Besic); Abbott, A. 1998. 'The Causal Devolution' Sociological Methods Research (27) 2: 148-181

b) additional

Druckam, D., 2005. Doing Research: Methods of Inquiry for Conflict Analysis, Sage Publications, London; Boudreau, T., 2012. When the killing begins: An Epistemic Inquiry into violent Human Conflict, Contested Truths and Multiplex Methodology, in Thomas Matyok, et. al. (eds) Critical Issues In Peace And Conflict Studies. Lanham: Littlefield Education, pp19-43; Wallensteen, P., 2011. Peace Research - Theory and Practice. Routledge, London; Bešić, M., 2009. Statistika u društvenim i političkim istraživanjima, Faculty of Political Science, Podgorica; Goldthorpe, J. H. 1996. 'The Quantitative Analysis of Large-Scale Data-Sets and Rational Action Theory: For a Sociological Alliance.' European Sociological Review 12: 109–26

Number of classes of active teaching:				Other
Lectures:	Tutorials:	Other modes of teaching:	Research work:	
2	1	Compulsory individual consultation	1	

## **Teaching methods**

Lecturing, Tutoring

Independent work of students:

- Homework for each session (tutoring): 2 hours *per* homework, in total 24 hours
- Producing final paper (25-30 pages), based on own research: 34 hours

Assessment of knowledge (maximum no. of points 100) **Pre-examination commitments** points Final examination points activity 12 written test 25 24 25 practical teaching oral examination 14 colloquium(a) seminar(s)