

Course name <i>MA Research Lab</i>	ECTS code <i>02.06-s2-EN-RAL</i>
Provider <i>University of Opole / Faculty of Social Sciences / Institute of Sociology</i>	
Year of the study programme, semester, academic year: <i>2nd year, semester I, 2018/2019</i>	
Name of the instructor(s) & email address: <i>Borys Cymbrowski borys.cymbrowski@uni.opole.pl</i>	
Forms of instruction / forms of classroom activity and ECTS credit points in relation to student's duties	ECTS credits: 5 - participation in class: 60 h - preparation for readings-based class discussions: 40 h - preparation for presentations: 50 h Total 150 h = 5 ECTS
A. Forms of instruction and the number of hours: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>60h workshop</i> 	
B. Classroom activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>didactic room</i> 	
Course status: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>obligatory</i> 	Language of instruction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>English</i>
Methods of instruction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>class discussion of problems present in the readings</i> • <i>oral presentations concerned with the re-search material for the MA theses of students</i> • <i>class discussions on individual problems connected with research carried out by students.</i> 	Forms of crediting and basic criteria of evaluation or examination requirements.
	Form of credit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>grade</i>
	B. Forms of evaluation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>partial grade for the preparation in discussions of readings</i> - <i>partial grade for presentation 1</i> - <i>partial grade for presentation 2</i> - <i>partial grade for presentation 3</i> <i>Final grade is weighed upon the above partial grades.</i>
C. Basic criteria: <i>The criteria are arbitrary ;)</i>	
Entry requirements: <i>Participants are supposed to have signed up to MA seminar and proceed their work on their (preferably fieldwork-based) research projects. Exchange students (e.g. from Erasmus programme) can also be admitted on condition of</i>	

being involved in an individual research project (in Poland or abroad) which enables them to share ideas, problems, and train their research skills along with the constituent students of Sociology – intercultural communication.

Course objectives:

The objective of the course is to give students the possibility to adjust their theoretical assumptions, research problems and particular research methods. It encompasses the discussion of readings on social research methodology (research problems, questions, hypotheses, etc.), evaluation of research findings with regard to theories chosen for the analysis.

Course content:

Treści realizowanych podczas zajęć, przy czym uwzględnia się podział na poszczególne formy zajęć, na przykład:

Laboratory:

1. Discussion of the respective research topics as being part of students' involvement in their MA seminars (with different professors)
2. Students presentations of their MA research projects
3. Grouping of the topics; discussion of the literature from the respective fields covering the topics of the MA research projects.
4. Discussion of the research problems and plausible research methods and techniques to properly refer to them
5. Discussion of the research problems and plausible research methods and techniques to properly refer to them
6. Presentation of the problem-related literature in each of the MA projects
7. Focusing on qualitative methods: ethnography in intercultural situations
8. Focusing on qualitative methods: observation intercultural situations
9. Focusing on qualitative methods: interviews in intercultural research
10. Focusing on qualitative methods: "The small-N problem", or generalizing on a case study or a limited group of interviewees.
11. Focusing on quantitative methods: survey and online survey in intercultural research
12. Focusing on combining different methods
13. Presentation of the research agenda (already being carried out or planned) for each of the MA research projects.
14. Discussion of particular problems
15. Evaluation of the class.

Reading list*

A. Obligatory reading (to get a credit):

- Ferguson, Charles A., Diglossia, in: Pier Paolo Giglioli (ed.), Language and Social Context, Penguin Modern Sociology Readings, London et al. 1983, pp. 232-251 (originally published in "World" 1959, No.15, pp. 325-340).
- Blair, Lorrie, Writing a Graduate Thesis or Dissertation, Sense Publishers, Rotterdam - Boston - Taipei 2016, Chapter 4: Conducting and Writing Literature Reviews, pp. 31 - 42.
- Charles Lipson, How to Write a Thesis: A Practical Guide from Your First Ideas to Your Finished Paper, University of Chicago Press, Chicago - London 2005, Chapter 3: Taking effective notes and avoiding plagiarism, pp. 37 - 65.
- Charles Lipson, How to Write a Thesis: A Practical Guide from Your First Ideas to Your Finished Paper, University of Chicago Press, Chicago - London 2005, Appendix 2: Footnotes 101, pp. 317 - 389.
- Howard S. Becker, Writing for Social Scientists How to Start and Finish Your Thesis, Book, or Article, 2nd ed., The University of Chicago Press, Chicago 2007, Chapter Eight: Terrorized by the literature, pp. 135 - 149.

- Howard S. Becker, *Writing for Social Scientists How to Start and Finish Your Thesis, Book, or Article*, 2nd ed., The University of Chicago Press, Chicago 2007, Chapter Five: Learning to Write as a Professional, pp. 90 – 107.
- Svend Brinkmann, *The Interview*, in: Norman K. Denzin, Yvonna S. Lincoln, *The Sage Handbook of Qualitative Research*, Sage, London 2018.

B. additional readings:

Howard S. Becker, *Writing for Social Scientists How to Start and Finish Your Thesis, Book, or Article*, 2nd ed., The University of Chicago Press, Chicago 2007 (whole book).

Charles Lipson, *How to Write a Thesis: A Practical Guide from Your First Ideas to Your Finished Paper*, University of Chicago Press, Chicago - London 2005 (whole book).

Martyn Hammersley, Paul Atkinson, *Ethnography: Principles in Practice*, 3rd ed., Routledge, Abingdon (England) - New York 2007.

Robert Gomm, Martyn Hammersley, Peter Foster (eds.), *Case Study Method: Key Issues, Key Texts*, Sage, London 2000.

Norman K. Denzin, Yvonna S. Lincoln, *The Sage Handbook of Qualitative Research*, Sage, London 2018.

Effects	Forms of evaluation	Reference to the programme effects
<p>Knowledge Upon successful completion of this course students should</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understand the sociological point of view • explain fundamental sociological theories, concepts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Evaluation of the contribution to class discussions on particular problems with doing research and writing chapters of research theses</i> 	<p>K_W01 K_W09</p>
<p>Skills Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – develop understanding of their place in society and how society influences all of their decisions and actions – apply sociological perspectives to various issues and problems in society 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Evaluation of students' presentations</i> 	<p>K_U01 K_U09</p>
<p>Social competences</p> <p>Student:</p> <p>Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • - use the knowledge they have; to formulate and solve complex and untypical problems as well as do assignments in unpredictable circumstances in an innovative way -- by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - appropriate selection of sources and information; - assessment and critical analysis, - synthesis and creative interpretation and presentation of that information. 	<p><i>Evaluation of excerpts of students' own research writings</i></p>	<p>K_K01 K_K09</p>

