

## Introduction to SPC Methodology (K001121)

Due to Covid 19, the education and assessment methods may vary from the information displayed in the schedules and course details. Any changes will be communicated on Ufora.

**Course size** *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

**Credits 6.0**

**Study time 180 h**

**Contact hrs**

45.0h

**Course offerings in academic year 2021-2022**

A (semester 2)

English

Gent

**Lecturers in academic year 2021-2022**

Verleye, Gino

PS01

lecturer-in-charge

**Offered in the following programmes in 2021-2022**

**crdts**

**offering**

[Bachelor of Science in Social Sciences\(main subject Communication Studies\)](#)

6

A

[Bachelor of Science in Social Sciences\(main subject Political Sciences\)](#)

6

A

[Bachelor of Science in Social Sciences\(main subject Sociology\)](#)

6

A

[Bachelor of Science in Social Sciences \(Joint Section\)](#)

6

A

[Preparatory Course Master of Science in Sociology](#)

6

A

**Teaching languages**

English

**Keywords**

- Methods
- Social Science

**Position of the course**

**Contents**

Social science methodology enjoys renewed attention of social scientists and practitioners. Faced with the need to solve complex social issues and confronted with the enlargement of the scope and the extent of social enquiry asked for by policy makers and stakeholders, the deficiency of traditional models and research techniques has been defined to most pressing issue to be tackled in the near future. As a result, the necessity of combined research techniques and an interdisciplinary methodological framework has been advanced by scholars and practitioners as a means to overcome the current research problems. Based on the book by Anol Bhattacharjee, students will be given a short overview of the actual state of affairs in social science research. After an introduction on what research in social sciences means, different research designs will be analyzed. Both data collection methods and analysis techniques will be shown using dedicated software. Through abundant references to specific research situations and case studies, the students will be acquainted with the vast array of methods and techniques that prevails in the field and gain a basic understanding of the strenghts /weaknesses each of these methodological paradigms offer.

**Initial competences**

**Final competences**

GENERAL COMPETENCES

L03: recognises the cross-sections, the intersections and the cross-fertilisations that are noticeable amongst the different social sciences.

L04: is able to apply social theories and concepts on a well-delineated, socially and scientifically relevant research topic that relates to the European Union or other

(international) institutions.

L06: can formulate a valid scientific research question on a topic that relates to the social sciences.

L07: can identify, gather and critically process the relevant sources and literature on a specific social sciences research topic.

L08: knows how to set up a scientific and methodologically correct research design.

L09: possesses the methodological knowledge and skills of data selection and data processing that prevail within the domains of the social sciences.

L010: masters the techniques of good and accurate research reporting in oral and written form.

L011: has an investigative, problem-oriented and critical attitude towards social, political and media-related phenomena and scientific research results with regard thereof.

L012: recognises the multilayered and complex character of social, political and media-related facts and phenomena.

L013: reflects and evaluates his or her learning process and results critically.

L014: acts in a professional and responsible manner.

L015: is able to perform teamwork, he or she possesses good communicative skills and is solution-oriented.

L016: prioritises scientific integrity and honesty in his or her scientific research activities.

Demonstrate insight in the ontological and epistemological foundations of social science research methodology, in political science, communication science, and sociology in a European context.

Acquire knowledge on the key methods in social science, their dynamics, and applications, as well as how they connect to specific research questions in political science, communication science, and sociology.

Being able to develop a research plan in political science, communication science, and sociology, while critically assess its strengths, limitations and ethics with regards to the initial research question.

#### **Conditions for credit contract**

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

#### **Conditions for exam contract**

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

#### **Teaching methods**

##### **Extra information on the teaching methods**

- Lecture
- Group work/problem or case oriented work
- Individual assignment
- Oral student presentations reporting research progress
- Introductory face to face class room methods
- Feedback, feed up en feed forward sessions

##### **Learning materials and price**

Handbook (Required) : Social sciences research: principles, methods and practices, Anol Bhattacharjee, University of South Florida Open access collections, 9781475146127, 2012

##### **References**

- Sayer, A. (2010). Method in social science: a realist approach. Routledge: London.
- Field, A. (2012). How to design and report experiments. London: Sage.
- Atkinson, P. (2001). Handbook of ethnography. Los Angeles: Sage.
- Scott, G. & Garner, R. (2013). Doing Qualitative Research: designs, methods, and techniques. Upper Saddle River: Pearson.

##### **Course content-related study coaching**

##### **Assessment moments**

end-of-term assessment

**Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period**

Written examination

**Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period**

Written examination

**Examination methods in case of permanent assessment**

**Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment**

not applicable

**Extra information on the examination methods**

- Formative assessment:
  - o Oral feed back, feed up and feed forward follow-up sessions
  - o Co- and peer-assessment
- Summative assessment: written evaluation (open and closed questions)

**Calculation of the examination mark**

written evaluation (scale from 0 to 20) (100%)