

**A COURSE SYLLABUS – DOCTORAL SCHOOL**  
REGARDING THE QUALIFICATION CYCLE FROM 2024/2025 TO 2028/2029

<b>GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT COURSE</b>				
Course title	<b>DOCTORAL DISSERTATION</b>			
Name of the unit running the course	Doctoral School at University of Rzeszów			
Type of course ( <i>obligatory, optional</i> )	obligatory subject			
Year and semester of studies	year I -IV, semester: I - VII			
Discipline	Political science			
Language of Course	Polish/English language			
Name of Course coordinator	dr hab. Anna Siewierska, prof. UR			
Name of Course lecturer	dr hab. Anna Siewierska, prof. UR			
Prerequisites	Academic knowledge of political science and administration. Knowledge in media science, especially in the field of so-called new media.			
<b>BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF COURSE</b> (100-200 words)				
<p>The purpose of the course is to prepare the doctoral student to conduct independent research with the application of the methodology of social sciences, especially political science. The doctoral student should master the most important methods and techniques used in political science research, i.e. system analysis, comparative methods, decision-making method, behavioral methods, quantitative methods (statistical research) and empirical methods, as well as the technique of questionnaire interview and survey. An important part of the course will also be for the doctoral student to learn the various stages of the research process and the correct nomenclature of political science research (the conceptual grid of the discipline and related disciplines). Other basic research methods of the social sciences will also be discussed, in particular, due to the subject of the doctoral student's work, qualitative research methods in social psychology (including case study, interview, analysis of the products of action, observation).</p> <p>Assumptions related to the planning of empirical research (model, stages), principles of construction of a research tool, ways of coding questionnaires, construction of research samples, principles of survey research, use of experiments in social sciences, sociometric method, focus group interviews, among others, will be discussed in detail.</p>				
<b>COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES AND METHODS OF EVALUATING LEARNING OUTCOMES</b>				
Learning outcome	The description of the learning outcome defined for the course	Relation to the degree programme outcomes (symbol)	Learning Format (Lectures, classes,...)	Method of assessment of learning outcomes (e.g. test, oral exam, written exam, project,...)
<b>Knowledge (no.)</b>	knows and understands, has knowledge			
<b>P8S_WG1</b>	Has a broad theoretical knowledge of the discipline of political science and general issues in related disciplines, current scientific achievements, including world achievements, has knowledge of its place and importance in the system of science in confrontation with other fields.	<b>P8S_WG</b>	conversation	report
<b>P8S_WG2</b>	Knows and understands the	<b>P8S_WG</b>	conversation	report

	directions of development of social sciences, especially political science, and the latest scientific research in the studied discipline, including worldwide.			
<b>P8S_WG3</b>	Knows how to use specialized terminology in the studied discipline and in related disciplines, including in English.	<b>P8S_WG</b>	conversation	report
<b>P8S_WG4</b>	Has knowledge of the methodology of conducting scientific research in the scientific discipline of political science, the principles of planning and implementing scientific research, using interdisciplinary research techniques and tools.	<b>P8S_WG</b>	conversation	report
<b>Skills (no.)</b>	can			
<b>P8S_UW1</b>	Based on its knowledge of the social sciences, especially political science, he is able to identify and solve a research problem, define the purpose of research, formulate a hypothesis and the object of scientific research, develop techniques, methods and research tools, and make conclusions based on the results of scientific research.	<b>P8S_UW</b>	conversation	report
<b>P8S_UW2</b>	He is able to select and use the scientific literature to properly diagnose and solve research problems and innovative activities in connection with the scientific work carried out and also to apply the appropriate workshop to create new elements of scientific output.	<b>P8S_UW</b>	conversation	report
<b>P8S_UW3</b>	He is able to independently acquire knowledge, expand analytical skills, and stimulate critical sensitivity to recognize dilemmas in conducting scientific research and fulfilling the role of an academic teacher, as well as transfer the results of scientific activity to the economic and social sphere.	<b>P8S_UW</b>	conversation	report
<b>Social competence (no.)</b>	is ready to			
<b>P8S_KK1</b>	Is prepared to carry out a critical evaluation of achievements within the chosen discipline and	<b>P8S_KK</b>	conversation	report

	to critically assess the contribution of the results of one's own research activity to the development of the discipline			
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### LEARNING FORMAT – NUMBER OF HOURS

Semester (no.)	Lectures	Seminars	Lab classes	Internships	others	ECTS
I - VIII	-	8 x 30 hrs. – 240 hrs.	-	-	-	24

### METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

*DEPENDING ON THE SUBJECT MATTER OF EACH CLASS, THE FOLLOWING WILL BE USED:*

- CONVERSION IN THE TRADITIONAL FORM;
- PROJECT;
- INTERPRETATION OF SOURCE TEXTS WITH DISCUSSION.

### COURSE CONTENT

#### **semester I**

Topic 1: Introduction to the history and present day of political science. Political science as a scientific discipline. Affinity with other disciplines. Challenges for the discipline in the 21st century.

Topic 2: The most important theories of political science. The achievements of political science in Poland and the world.

Topic 3: Subject matter of interest in political science 1) political behavior, 2) political institutions and organizations, 3) public opinion and political culture, 4) political subjectivity, 5) political change, 6) international relations, 7) state management and public policies.

Topic 4: Research currents in the discipline of political science: 1) political theories, 2) political axiology 3) political systems theory, 4) public policies, 5) political communication.

#### **semester II**

Topic 1: Methodology of political science research and related disciplines.

Topic 2: The most important methods and techniques used in political science research and related disciplines.

Topic 3: Dedicated methodologies: 1) methodology for the study of political thought; 2) methodology for the analysis of international and transnational problems; 3) methodology for the study of European integration; Methodology of analysis of political systems; 4) theoretical orientations, sub-disciplines and scientific fields in political science; 5) foreign and domestic policy as a subject of political science research; 6) foreign policy of the Republic of Poland; 7) European integration; 8) decision-making processes in the intra-state environment and international relations.

Topic 4: Introduction to political psychology - methodological context.

#### **semester III**

Topic 1: Methodology of research in political science and related sciences - development.

Topic 2: Proper planning of the stage of the research process. Formulation of the research problem, research objective, hypotheses, etc.

Topic 3: Interdisciplinary research methods, techniques and tools.

Topic 4: Specificity of scientific texts.

#### **semester IV**

Topic 1: Development of analytical skills.

Topic 2: Systemic analysis as a method of constructing a conceptual model of political phenomena.

Topic 3: Analysis using comparative methods.

Topic 4: Analysis using quantitative and qualitative methods and applying the methodology of related sciences.

#### **semester V**

Topic 1: Methodology of own research - object and purpose of research.

Topic 2: Methodology of own research - research problems, research hypotheses, variables and indicators.

Topic 3: Methodology of own research - methods, techniques and research tools.

Topic 4: Methodology of own research - pilot study and correction.

#### **semester VI**

Topic 1: Specificity of political science research - problems, challenges, mistakes.

Topic 2: Political science research in Poland and the world - study of selected cases, critical analysis of research from the discipline of political science.

Topic 3: Research in social psychology in Poland and the world - a study of selected cases.  
 Topic 4: Scientific research as an inspiration for own research. How to develop science without duplicating mistakes.

**semester VII**

Topic 1: Ethics in the conduct of research in the social sciences, with particular emphasis on the science of politics and administration.

Topic 2: Use of scientific research in practice - transfer to the economy and social life.

Topic 3: Educational value of scientific research and its use in the process of educating students.

**semester VIII**

Topic 1: Scientific research in the media - promotion of science, implementation of solutions, popularization of knowledge.

Topic 2: Interdisciplinarity in scientific research as an opportunity and challenge.

Topic 3: Political science narrative theory. How to communicate the results of scientific research, new theories political science and influence socio-political reality.

**COURSE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA**

The evaluation is based on the systematic and ongoing work of the doctoral student in each semester and academic year in terms of: implementation of research, expansion of knowledge, study of literature, involvement and progress in the preparation of the dissertation. As part of the credit, the doctoral student will also be evaluated on the basis of written work, discussion and activity in class. Possible semester grades are: 2.0, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0.

To obtain a passing grade, a conversion factor is applied for the corresponding percentage of points obtained:

- up to 50% - insufficient, (the doctoral student does not make progress in scientific research, does not expand his knowledge, does not study the readings, does not participate in substantive discussion, does not fulfill his scientific duties);

- 51% - 60% - sufficient, (the doctoral student makes negligible progress in scientific research, expands knowledge, studies primary literature, the discussion held is limited to a narrow range of substantive knowledge, fulfills basic scientific duties);

- 61% - 70% - sufficient plus, (the doctoral student makes progress in scientific research, expands knowledge, studies basic literature, substantively participates in the discussion, discharges scientific duties);

- 71% - 80% - good, (doctoral student makes significant progress in scientific research, expands knowledge, studies primary and secondary literature, substantively participates in discussion, fulfills all scientific duties);

- 81% - 90% - good plus, (the doctoral student makes significant progress in scientific research, systematically expands knowledge, studies basic and complementary literature, substantively participates in discussion, fulfills all scientific duties);

- 91% - 100% - very good (the doctoral student makes significant progress in scientific research, systematically expands knowledge, studies basic, complementary and beyond the obligatory literature, substantively participates in discussion, fulfills all scientific duties).

**TOTAL PhD STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE THE INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES  
 – NUMBER OF HOURS AND ECTS CREDITS**

Activity	Number of hours
Scheduled course contact hours	<b>8 x 30 hrs - 240 hrs.</b>
Other contact hours involving the teacher (consultation hours, examinations)	10
Non-contact hours – student’s own work (preparation for classes or examinations, project, etc.)	470
<b>Total number of hours</b>	<b>720</b>

Total number of ECTS credits	24
<b>INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS</b>	
Compulsory literature:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>BABBIE, E., SOCIAL RESEARCH IN PRACTICE, WYDAWNICTWO NAUKOWE PWN, WARSAW 2006.</b></li> <li>2. <b>FRANKFORT-NACHMIAS, CH., NACHMIAS, D., RESEARCH METHODS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES, ZYSKI S-KA PUBLISHING HOUSE, POZNAŃ 2001.</b></li> <li>3. <b>QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS, VOL. 1, N.K. DENZIN, A.S. LINCOLN, PWN SCIENTIFIC PUBLISHERS, WARSAW 2009.</b></li> <li>4. <b>QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS, VOL. 2, N.K. DENZIN, A.S. LINCOLN, WYDAWNICTWO NAUKOWE PWN, WARSAW 2009.</b></li> <li>5. <b>NOWAK, S., METHODOLOGY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, WYDAWNICTWO NAUKOWE PWN, WARSAW 2007.</b></li> <li>6. <b>KRAUZ-MOZER, B. THEORIES OF POLITICS. METHODOLOGICAL ASSUMPTIONS, PWN, WARSAW 2005.</b></li> <li>7. <b>JOHNSON, B. J.; REYNOLDS, H. T.; MYCOFF, J.D., RESEARCH METHODS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE, WYDAWNICTWO NAUKOWE PWN, WARSAW 2010.</b></li> <li>8. <b>MARSH D.; STOKER G.(ED.), THEORIES AND METHODS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE, WYD. UJ, KRAKOW 2006.</b></li> <li>9. <b>BOX-STEFFENSMEIER, J.M., CHRISTENSON, D., SINCLAIR-CHAPMAN, V. (ED.) THE OXFORD HANDBOOK OF ENGAGED METHODOLOGICAL PLURALISM IN POLITICAL SCIENCE, OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2023.</b></li> </ol>
Complementary literature:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Silverman, D., Conducting qualitative research, Wydawnictwo Naukowe PWN, Warsaw 2008.</li> <li>2. Sztumski, J., Introduction to methods and techniques of social research, Wydawnictwo Śląsk, Katowice 2005.</li> <li>3. Banks, M., Visual materials in qualitative research, Wydawnictwo Naukowe PWN, Warsaw 2009.</li> <li>4. Oppenheim, A.N., Questionnaires, interviews, measurement, Wydawnictwo Zysk i S-ka, Poznań 2004.</li> <li>5. Sztumski, J., Introduction to methods and techniques of social research, Wydawnictwo Śląsk, Katowice 2005.</li> <li>6. Pawłuszko, T., Introduction to the methodology of political science research, Częstochowa 2013.</li> <li>7. Shively Phillips, W., The art of conducting political research, Zysk i S-ka, Poznań 2001.</li> <li>8. clementewicz T., Understanding politics. Outline of the methodology of the science of politics, Dom Wydawniczy Elipsa, Warsaw 2010.</li> <li>9. Parkhurst, J., The Politics of Evidence: From evidence -based policy to the good governance of evidence. Taylor &amp; Francis 2017.</li> </ol>

\*(1 ECTS CREDIT CORRESPONDS TO 25 - 30 HOURS OF THE TOTAL WORKLOAD OF A DOCTORAL STUDENT, NEEDED TO ACHIEVE THE ESTABLISHED EFFECTS).

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Date and signature of the Course lecturer

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Approved by the Head of the Department or an authorised person