

Research Seminar for PhD Students, 2019-2020

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1. Introduction

This seminar aims to help PhD students write and defend their thesis projects in front of an audience. The seminar has two parts. In the first part, which starts at the end of November and ends before Christmas, students must make a first presentation of an about 3000-word written thesis project to their peers and the professor convening the course (there will be two students' presentations in each 2-hour seminar). In the second part, which runs in the second term of the academic year, between January and the end of March, students will make a second presentation of an extended and revised version of their research proposal (6000 words) in front of their peers and of their supervisor/tutor. The seminar is intended to be a forum of discussion of students' projects, by exposing them to the scrutiny of a scientific and academic audience.

2. Prerequisites

None

3. Competences to be achieved in the subject

- General competences (Instrumental, Interpersonal and Systemic)
 1. **Instrumental Competences**
 - Capacity to write effectively
 - Ability to reach an audience
 2. **Interpersonal Competences**
 - Critical and self-critical ability
 3. **Systemic Competences**
 - Research abilities
 - Ability to work autonomously
 - Ability to generate new ideas (creativity)
 - Design and management of research projects
- Specific competences
 1. Capacity to write a coherent and well organized research proposal
 2. Ability to present a research proposal in public in a limited time
 3. Ability to defend a research proposal against criticisms

4. Assessment

The course is assessed on a pass/non-pass basis. To pass the course students need to:

- Make a 10 minute presentation of their thesis proposal in public
- Successfully defend their project against the criticisms of an informed audience

5. Contents

Students' presentations will be divided in four main blocks of sessions depending on the main approach they propose to use in their projects: comparative, qualitative, theoretical, and quantitative.

6. Methodology

Each 2-hour session will hold two students' presentations/discussions (1 hour each). Each student will make a short 10-minute presentation after which there will be a 45-minute discussion. In the discussion period, all other students will make a brief comment with their critique and suggestions to improve the propos. A week before the presentation, students will be required to distribute their research proposal among the participants of the seminar.

7. Weekly plan (pending)

<i>Week</i>		<i>Student's name and presentation</i>	<i>Discussant</i>
Part 1: Autumn 2019			
25 Nov	<i>Seminar 1</i>	Presentation 1	Jorge Rodríguez
		Presentation 2	
27 Nov	<i>Seminar 2</i>	Presentation 1	Jorge Rodríguez
		Presentation 2	
29 Nov	<i>Seminar 3</i>	Presentation 1	Jorge Rodríguez
		Presentation 2	
2 Dec	<i>Seminar 4</i>	Presentation 1	Jorge Rodríguez
		Presentation 2	
4 Dec	<i>Seminar 5</i>	Presentation 1	Jorge Rodríguez
		Presentation 2	
9 Dec	<i>Seminar 6</i>	Presentation 1	Jorge Rodríguez
		Presentation 2	
11 Dec	<i>Seminar 7</i>	Presentation 1	Jorge Rodríguez
		Presentation 2	
13 Dec	<i>Seminar 8</i>	Presentation 1	Jorge Rodríguez
		Presentation 2	