

TRANSFER OF SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE

Number of credits: 4 ECTS

Course period: 1 semester / 1 class per week

Language of Instruction: English

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Course description

The purpose of this course is the development of researcher competence by using exemplary cases of decision-making in social sciences and humanities.

The course includes various aspects of the theory and practice of social researching. One of the most sought-after personal qualities, along with professionalism, is a professional ability to act within the framework of actual cognitive paradigms, which are institutionalized in modern science and culture. The key to Master research is an ability to understand a variety of plausible contexts. Students must be able to clearly set a goal of research and track within the realization strategy of its achievement. It should be understood and clarified in a pragmatic context as well.

Prerequisites

Lectures, seminars, group presentation, mid-term exam, final Exam.

Course outline

Week 1. Lecture 1. The actual consequences of pragmatism.

Week 2. Lecture 2. Social research in a post-modern situation.

Week 3. Lecture 3. The importance of research idea.

Week 4. Seminar 1. The relevant cases of modern pragmatism.

Week 5. Seminar 2. Social research as a form of social institution.

Week 6. Seminar 3. Roots and premises vs. pretexts in existing social research (cases).

Week 7. Seminar 4. Analyzing the ways from idea to methods (tool cases).

Week 8. Seminar 5. The ugly truth of social projects.

Week 9. Seminar 6. Clearing the levels of a research: theory - empirics - pragmatics.

Week 10. Seminar 7. Goal setting vs. subject-object specifications.

Week 11. Seminar 8. Ways to clear data-analysis.

Week 12. Seminar 9. Project is not a purpose in itself.

Week 13 .Seminar 10. Finding the conclusions: the tasks temptations.

Week 14. Seminar 11. Comparative analysis of existing solutions for a research.

Final exam

Assignments

For each part of the course there will be an individual assignment to write a short paper addressing a specific question. The assignments will be graded and commented by the Instructor with one paragraph of comments.

Examination

Mid-term exam consists of a multiple choice test of 20 questions that deal with terms, ideas, and facts covered during the previous weeks and a short (not exceeding 250 words) written answer to one of two questions based on material covered within the previous weeks.

Group presentation: A PowerPoint (or Prezi, or OpenOffice) presentation of 20-25 slides prepared by a working group (depending on the number of students in the class but not more than four students in a group) on one of the issues covered in the course. The presentation will be followed by a Q and A session. Presenters are expected to demonstrate their use of theoretical and methodological tools discussed during the course for analysis of the subject of their presentation.

Final Exam consists of an open-ended test that requires short (1-3 sentences) responses to 20 questions based on the material covered within the course and a short academic essay (2,500 words) on one of three suggested topics.

Course evaluation

ECTS Grade	Points	Russian grade
A	100-91 points	“excellent”: 100–80 points
B	90-81	
C	80-71	“good”: 79– 60 points
D	70-61	
F: failed	less than 60 points: failed	“satisfactory”: 59–40 points

Core reading

1. Kuhn T.S. The Structure of Scientific Revolutions: 50th Anniversary Edition. University of Chicago Press, 2012.
2. Popper K.R. The Logic of Scientific Discovery. Psychology Press, 2002.
3. Ayer A.J. Language, Truth and Logic. Courier Corporation, 2012.
4. Russell B. A History of Western Philosophy. Simon and Shuster, N.Y., 1945.

Recommended reading

1. Lakatos I. Proofs and Refutations: The Logic of Mathematical Discovery. Cambridge University Press, 1976.
2. Feyerabend P. Against Method. Verso, 1993.
3. Popper K. R. The poverty of Historicism. Routledge, 1957.