**University of Glasgow.**

**College of Social Sciences**

**Graduate School for Social Sciences**

**PGR Research Training Programme (RTP) 2021/2022**

 **– summary.**

The RTP provides the joint methods courses across the College of Social Sciences.

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� MRes students: three core courses + one optional course.

� MSc students: courses depend on your programme.

� PhD students: all courses are optional; audit not possible.

Semester 1 courses

**Research Design PhD/MRes (SPS5041)**

Semester 1

Coordinator(s): Prof Mark Tranmer

Duration: 35.5 hours (11 x 2 hour lectures, 9 x 1.5 hour tutorials)

This course aims to provide students with a broad overview of different research designs in social sciences. A research design is a blueprint that connects the different stages of the research process in a logical way such that new knowledge can be generated in an unbiased and robust way. There is a range of different designs, such as longitudinal and cross-sectional, or experimental and observational research designs. The choice of research design should suit the research question to be answered. The research design determines which methods can be used to answer the question. Research design for qualitative and for quantitative research as mixed-methods designs exist. The course aims to provide an introductory overview across these types of research and expose students to a range of advances methods that are mostly commonly employed across social sciences. It improves students’ skills around developing a strong and robust research design and outlines clear guidelines for distinguishing good research from bad research. In addition to exposure to a variety of designs and corresponding methods as well as the different stages of the research process, students will learn how to combine these different elements in order to increase the quality of their own research. At the end of the course, students should be able to make an informed decision on how to select a good research question, how to select cases, how to measure and collect data, and what methods to choose for the analysis in their own prospective research. Rather than selecting methods by personal taste or abilities, students will be enabled to select appropriate methods in an informed way in order to maximise the validity of the findings they generate

**Lectures (ONLINE ANYTIME)**

**Tutorials (ONLINE LIVE):**

Mondays from **4th October 2021 – 29th November 2021**

Tutorial Group 1: Monday 2-3:30pm

Tutorial Group 2: Monday 3-4:30pm

Tutorial Group 3: Monday 4-5:30pm

Tutorial Group 4: Monday 4-5:30pm

*Tutorial times are subject to change so please refer to your student timetable and the course Moodle page for any updates.*

**Summative Assessment:**

Two Online Exams + Written Work (submission dates TBC).

### Qualitative Methods PhD/Mres (SPS5037)

Semester 1

Co-ordinator(s): Dr Phillippa Wiseman

Duration: 25.5 hours (11 x 1.5 hour lectures, 9 x 1 hour tutorials/dissertation training sessions)

Qualitative methods are those research techniques concerned broadly with non-mathematical, naturally occurring and non-experimental research practices that look to uncover the meanings and significance of the wide variety of evidence that social researchers collect. Qualitative research includes a broad range of approaches and techniques. The purpose of the course is to introduce students to a number of the most commonly used of these approaches and techniques. These tools include in-depth interviews and focus groups as well as the gathering of data based on observation and textual information. The course aims to develop a practical understanding of the philosophical underpinnings, application and analysis of qualitative methodology for those working in the social sciences.

**Lectures (ONLINE ANYTIME)**

**Tutorials (ONLINE LIVE):**

from **4th October 2021 – 29th November 2021**

Tutorial Group 1: Tuesday 1-2pm

Tutorial Group 2: Tuesday 2-3pm

Tutorial Group 3: Wednesday 11am-12noon

Tutorial Group 4: Wednesday 11am-12noon

Tutorial Group 5: Thursday 1-2pm

Tutorial Group 6: Thursday 1-2pm

Tutorial Group 7: Friday 4-5pm

*Tutorial times are subject to change so please refer to your student timetable and the course Moodle page for any updates.*

**Summative Assessment:**

Two individual assignments (submission dates TBC).

**Quantitative Data Analysis (URBAN5127)**

Semester 1

Duration: 37 hours (11 x 2 hour lectures, 10 x 1.5 hour tutorials)

The course introduces basic statistics and data analysis from univariate summary statistics up to multivariate linear regression. The main aim of the course is to enable students to summarise, analyse, and present data in valid ways and understand the basics of statistical inference and association as required in quantitative social science research. At the end of the course, students should be able to describe, summarise, and visualise data, calculate the association between variables at various scale levels, understand sampling and inference, test hypotheses with given datasets, quantify the uncertainty arising from data, and apply, interpret, and understand the assumptions of, linear regression models.

At all times, special care is taken to ensure that students can associate the statistical techniques with real-world examples from across the social sciences. In addition to basic statistics, students will acquire computational skills that allow them to apply their newly acquired skills using the statistical computing environment R. The overarching aim is to enable students to transfer these skills to new datasets, possibly including their own research topics. Students will learn how to evaluate theories and claims based on data by selecting the appropriate statistical tools and applying them to the data by hand and by using R. In each session of the course, the relevant concepts are taught using words, numbers, equations, examples, and R code.

**Lectures (ONLINE LIVE):**

Fridays10am-12pm from **24th September – 3rd December 2021**

**Tutorials (ONLINE LIVE):**

Fridays between 1pm-4pm from **1st October – 3rd December 2021**

Tutorial Group 1: Friday 1-2.30pm

Tutorial Group 2: Friday 2.30-4pm

*Tutorial times are subject to change so please refer to your student timetable and the course Moodle page for any updates.*

**Summative Assessment:**

Two individual assignments (submission dates TBC).

Semester 2 courses

**Quantitative Data Analysis (SPS5033)**

Semester 2

Coordinator(s): Dr David McArthur

Duration: 37 hours (11 x 2 hour lectures, 10 x 1.5 hour tutorials)

The course introduces basic statistics and data analysis from univariate summary statistics up to multivariate linear regression. The main aim of the course is to enable students to summarise, analyse, and present data in valid ways and understand the basics of statistical inference and association as required in quantitative social science research. At the end of the course, students should be able to describe, summarise, and visualise data, calculate the association between variables at various scale levels, understand sampling and inference, test hypotheses with given datasets, quantify the uncertainty arising from data, and apply, interpret, and understand the assumptions of, linear regression models.

At all times, special care is taken to ensure that students can associate the statistical techniques with real-world examples from across the social sciences. In addition to basic statistics, students will acquire computational skills that allow them to apply their newly acquired skills using the statistical computing environment R. The overarching aim is to enable students to transfer these skills to new datasets, possibly including their own research topics. Students will learn how to evaluate theories and claims based on data by selecting the appropriate statistical tools and applying them to the data by hand and by using R. In each session of the course, the relevant concepts are taught using words, numbers, equations, examples, and R code.

**Lectures (ONLINE LIVE):**

Mondays12noon-2pm from **10th January – 21st March 2022**

**Tutorials (ONLINE LIVE):**

from **17th January – 24th March 2022**

Tutorial Group 1: Monday 2-3.30pm

Tutorial Group 2: Monday 4-5.30pm

Tutorial Group 3: Thursday 12-1.30pm

Tutorial Group 4: Thursday 2-3.30pm

Tutorial Group 5: Thursday 4-5.30pm

*Tutorial times are subject to change so please refer to your student timetable and the course Moodle page for any updates.*

**Summative Assessment:**

Two individual assignments (submission dates TBC).

### Introduction to Social Theory for Researchers (SPS5036)

Semester 2

Co-ordinator(s): Dr Christopher Bunn

Duration: 20 hours (10 x 1 hour lectures, 10 x 1 hour tutorials)

The course will begin with a historical scrutiny of the founding figures of social science. Then, by following the development of distinctive programmes of social research throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, we will explore key theoretical and methodological questions. The emphasis of the course will be empirical in two senses. First, there will be a strong stress on the foundational issues underlying practical empirical research in the social sciences. Second, the teaching of the course will be based firmly upon the close study of original texts. The course will examine the status of the natural sciences as an exemplar of high-status knowledge in our society. It will be argued that the scientific method, thus, provides an effective model for social inquiry. But we will also regard scientific knowledge as itself socially explicable.

**Lectures (ONLINE ANYTIME)**

**Tutorials (ONLINE LIVE):**

Tuesday 5-6pm from **18th January – 22nd March 2022**

Tutorial Group 1: Tuesday 5-6pm

Tutorial Group 2: Tuesday 5-6pm

Tutorial Group 3: Tuesday 5-6pm

*Tutorial times are subject to change so please refer to your student timetable and the course Moodle page for any updates.*

**Summative Assessment:**

Two individual assignments (submission dates TBC).

### Applied Qualitative Methods (SPS5035)

Semester 2

Co-ordinator(s): Dr Jo Ferrie

Duration: 32 hours (11 x 2 hour lectures, 10 x 1 hour tutorials)

This course aims to advance thinking around qualitative methods, and to reflect pragmatically on life in the ‘field’. The course focuses much more on how to do research, exploring the link between an ontological position (particularly a politically informed one) and available epistemologies. The course requires students to focus more strategically on designing research, gathering data and analysing materials. Further students will engage with the socio-political and ethical issues which arise as part of these research processes.

**Lectures (ONLINE LIVE):**

Tuesdays 12-2pm from **11th January – 22nd March 2022**

**Tutorials (ONLINE LIVE):**

from **18th January – 25th March 2022**

Tutorial Group 1: Tuesday 2-3pm

Tutorial Group 2: Friday 2-3pm

*Tutorial times are subject to change so please refer to your student timetable and the course Moodle page for any updates.*

**Summative Assessment:**

Please refer to the course Moodle page for more information on the course assessment.

**Document last updated 22nd June 2021.**