Course Specifications
Valid as from the academic year 2019-2020

Research practice and Fieldwork 1 (K001290)

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Study time</th>
<th>Contact hrs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>210 h</td>
<td>90.0 h</td>
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</tbody>
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Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2019-2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A (year)</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>group work</th>
<th>5.0 h</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>lecture</td>
<td>35.0 h</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>fieldwork</td>
<td>40.0 h</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>seminar</td>
<td>5.0 h</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>microteaching</td>
<td>5.0 h</td>
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Lecturers in academic year 2019-2020

| Marijnen, Esther | PS05 | lecturer-in-charge |
| De Smet, Brecht  | PS05 | co-lecturer         |

Offered in the following programmes in 2019-2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Master of Science in Teaching in Social Sciences (main subject Political Science)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Master of Science in Conflict and Development Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>crds</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
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<td>7</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Methods and analysis, academic writing and reporting, project management, presentation and discussion skills, research on processes and practices of (armed) conflict, post-conflict and development, ethnographic fieldwork in a conflict / post-conflict context; actors of conflict and development, participatory research, fieldwork techniques.

Position of the course

This course is one of the three options within the compulsory general course ‘Research practice and fieldwork’ of the Masters in Conflict and Development. The first general part of Research Practice and Fieldwork I (taught by prof. Suykens) provides students with a general and common reference point for qualitative social research based on fieldwork. The second, applied part of Research Practice and Fieldwork I (taught by Dr. Karen Büscher) consists of a field experience in the Global South where students are confronted with the social, political, economic and cultural realities of a conflict / post-conflict setting. Based on field visits and field exercises, the students are guided through a critical analysis of concrete processes and practices of conflict and development.

The course Research Practice and Fieldwork I therefore aims at the practicing of a number of essential skills for university-trained professionals in the field of conflict and development studies, such as the thoughtful dealing with a long-term project in consultation with supervisor (s) and peers (fellow students) and developing a critical and constructive relationship to these other actors. At the micro level the course this also contributes to the strengthening of editorial, presentation and discussion skills.

Contents

The course consists of two parts

1) General introduction to applied research methods and ethnographic fieldwork techniques (prof. Bert Suykens). This part of the course is divided into lectures (3 sessions) and interactive and applied sessions (4 sessions).

The lectures will elaborate on the terms of the master thesis development and conflict, will address the overall assessment of this scientific work, will offer an overview of what

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is expected in the interactive part, will explain the assessment criteria of this course, will discuss some ontological and epistemological principles of scientific research, will address the requirements of a critical literature as well as the specific form of the systematic literature review; will provide an introduction to data and data-analysis and particular attention is paid to the development of a research proposal.

The interactive and applied sessions aim, through various methods, to provide students more insights into the praxis of research in the field of conflict and development. Microteaching will be applied during two sessions, during which exemplary texts will be read in smaller group, discussed and presented. In the first place, these sessions aim at a deepening of the methodological knowledge of the literature study, and in the second place to a deepening of the methodological knowledge of fieldwork. During the seminars, again in smaller groups, the research question / purpose and the argument of the master thesis of the students will be presented and discussed.

2) Critical analysis and applied research of processes and practices of development and (armed) conflict. This component, taught by Dr. Karen Büscher, consists of two blocks. In a first block of lectures and seminars, students are being substantively prepared for the fieldwork trip to the Global South (conflict or post-conflict setting, destination to be identified each year). This is done by means of classic lectures and by group discussions of relevant literature.

The second block consists of the field trip itself, in which the students are confronted with the complex reality of a conflict / post-conflict setting for two weeks. In cooperation with local experts and NGOs, guided visits are organized to specific settings (such as refugee camps, self-help groups, rehabilitation centers, etc.) and seminars will be organized which should allow in-depth discussion on various aspects of conflict and development. Another important objective of the field trip is for students to conduct their own research (in group). The conclusions are presented in a scientific report, and submitted to local researchers and aid workers. Examples of such exercises in the past were about land access, mechanisms of conflict resolution, gender and political participation, reintegration of child soldiers, the impact of humanitarian interventions, etc.).

After the field trip, the scientific reports are being refined and presented for feedback from the teacher and fellow students.

Initial competences

This course is taken in conjunction with the master thesis.

Final competences

1. To frame an operational research question within the international one literature, relying on a thorough and integrated knowledge of the relevant discipline.
2. Select the appropriate research strategy and analytical approach and justify them in the light of answering the research question
3. To report findings and / or data in a responsible manner
4. Critically and constructively evaluate and comment fellow students’ subject-specific, methodological or other choices made
5. To present and defend own subject matter-, methodological or other choices in front of peers (fellow students).
6. Having insights in criteria used in the evaluation of scientific work
7. Managing his/her own work in a conscious way as a long-term project
8. Being able to independently conduct field research
9. Having insight in the working methods and approaches of international and one local development organizations.
10. Being able to elaborate a research project in group, and to communally conduct fieldwork
11. Present the common research results in a clear and academic way
12. Dealing consciously and reflexively with ethical challenges of fieldwork, with his/her own position as a researcher and the impact of the research on the local community

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Group work, lecture, microteaching, fieldwork, seminar, self-reliant study activities

Extra information on the teaching methods

Part of course taught by Prof. Suykens.: In the first part "lectures" (3 sessions), a general explanation is given about the criteria used in the evaluation of scientific work (ie master thesis). In addition, introductory lectures are provided that explore the

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methodological questions, with a specific emphasis on critical literature study, fieldwork and research in the Global South (2 sessions). These lectures are supplemented by a series of interactive sessions (seminars and microteaching) (4 sessions). Firstly, through micro-teaching (2 sessions) and by using exemplary texts of critical literature review and of field research, the knowledge about these two forms of research in the field, of conflict and development will be deepened. The emphasis here lies on analysing in group, discussing and presenting the knowledge gained. Secondly, during seminars (2 sessions) more attention will be given to the individual master thesis research of the students. Here, in smaller groups, students will firstly present their own research question / purpose, which will be commented on and discussed by students as well as a researcher active in the field of conflict and development studies and secondly the central argument of the master thesis discussed. These sessions are interactive and dynamic and rely very heavily on the own input of students. They take place in relatively small groups, with individualized guidance and coaching by experts. In addition a number of methods are used that do not take the form of a special session, but take the form of a series of exercises like group works and individual/independent work carried by the students. The independent work is delivered within the framework of the seminars, in which students are being asked to prepare a short note regarding the research question and the argument of the master thesis.

Part of the course taught by Dr. Karen Büscher: Introductory courses in which students are being prepared for a site visit in the South. On the one hand these are thematic lectures and on the other hand interactive discussions on relevant literature. Finally, two sessions will be organized during which a number of fieldwork techniques will be taught. During these lectures, time and space is offered for the preparation of the fieldwork research. The field-trip itself to the South takes around two weeks in which students set up and carry out their own research and (independent work, the teacher and local assistants act as ‘coach’ and steer the process). At this stage, the students are being confronted with a number of typical challenges inherent to doing team-research (harmonizing research approach, task sharing, comparing and integrating research data, developing a consensus on the analysis). During two meetings after the fieldwork-trip, the students will be asked to communicate and defend their research findings in a clear way to fellow researchers (students)

Overview workforms.
fieldwork 25.0 h
Lecture 22.5.0 u
microteaching 5.0 u
seminar 5.0 u
Group work 2.5 u

Learning materials and price
The course material for the three lectures will be offered on Minerva.
The costs of the fieldworktrip to the South will be communicated at the start of the academic year.

References

Course content-related study coaching
During the lectures in Part 1; during the field work via personal contact with the teacher; during the work colleges Part 3.

Evaluation methods
end-of-term evaluation and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period
Oral examination, assignment

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period
Oral examination, assignment

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation
Participation, assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation
examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods
Course part prof. Suykens: Different evaluation forms are linked to different teaching methods The individual assignment is the written preparation of the seminars and will therefore be the research design (seminar 1) and the argument (session 2). This preparation should be presented orally (participation). During microteaching sessions students are quoted on participation, no written report is needed.
Part of the course by Dr. Karen Büscher: Evaluation is based on group work (several

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drafts before and after the research trip will be graded), based on the presentation of this group work and based on the participation in the various activities of the field trip.

Calculation of the examination mark

7 / 20 research practice; 13 / 20 fieldwork

**Research Practice (Prof. Bert Suykens.)**
The sessions microteaching count together for 3/20 in which participation (in the form of preparation, discussion and presentation) is assessed. The seminars counts for 4/20, in which both the written preparation (individual assignment) and participation will be assessed (individual).

Fieldwork (Dr. Karen Büscher): The group assignment counts for 7,5/20, the presentation for 2 / 20, active participation during seminars for 3,5/20.