

Course title	<i>Quantitative and Qualitative Methods</i>
Credits	6 ECTS
University	KU Leuven/ U Complutense Madrid
Language of the course	English
Learning outcomes	LO1. understand the different disciplinary approaches to European Studies, including the way in which the different disciplines interact and enrich each other, so that they can grasp the richness of disciplinary perspectives on Europe and reflect on the added-value of multidisciplinary knowledge to understand Europe. LO2. be able to grasp the need for a general knowledge of different conceptual, theoretical and methodological perspectives to analyze and understand the European Union, and consequently: ▪ use various conceptual frames, theoretical approaches and methodological tools, that attempt to provide answers to the fundamental and practical questions that the European project is confronted with; ▪ utilize means of comparison to answer to which degree similarities and differences across Europe exist, and how they define Europe at large; LO3. have acquired analytical skills to conduct research under supervision, as well as present and report, clearly and comprehensively, both orally and in written form knowledge concerning questions of European Studies so that overall, students are able to formulate research questions, understand academic literature, collect and analyse data, critically reflect on research findings and weave this into the scientific-academic presentation of their own research results.
Course objectives	This course familiarizes students with the key elements of qualitative and quantitative methodology so that students can reflect upon and choose the best suitable methods and utilize methods for their own independent research.
Content	The course content is structured along two building-blocs: (1) Qualitative Methods and (2) Quantitative Methods ▪ In the first part of the course, students will be guided towards qualitative methods. The following components are covered: (a) qualitative research questions, theoretical and conceptual frameworks, (b) sampling, data collection techniques, (c) analytical frameworks and research design, research ethics and quality assessment. ▪ In the second part of the course, students will be guided towards quantitative methods. The following components are covered: (a) introduction to quantitative methods: An overview, (b) The path from cause to effect: randomized control trials : Practices with spreadsheets and real data, (c) regression analysis and (d) how to carry out a quantitative project.
Work format(s)	The course is taught by various professors from KU Leuven and UC Madrid. In addition to the online components of the course, students will be able to meet on campus in smaller groups.
Manner of assessment	▪ Permanent participation ▪ Permanent evaluation, incl. group presentations/ term papers ▪ Peer Assessment/Self-Assessment

Literature (required/ recommended)	▪ Maggi Savin-Baden and Claire Howell Major (2013): Qualitative Research: The Essential Guide to Theory and Practice. Abingdon and New York: Routledge. ▪ King, G et al.: Designing Social Inquiry (2014): Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research. Princeton University Press. ▪ King, A. et al (2018) Interviews in Qualitative Research. 2nd edition. Sage. ▪ Angrist, J. D., & Pischke, J. S. (2014). Mastering' metrics: The path from cause to effect. Princeton University Press.
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