

Course title	Research Design
Credits	6
University	KU Leuven / University of Bologna
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. have multidisciplinary knowledge on the fundamental aspects and values of the European Union and European integration as well as of European states and societies, which allows students to grasp the multi-dimensional issues, interests and ideas that are necessary to understand Europe as a political, economic, cultural and societal process in past and present times. LO3. be able to reflect on the role of Europe in the world, not the least by being equipped to grasp the complex multi-dimensional historical and contemporary relations between Europe and other countries, societies and regions and/or continents. LO4. 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; LO5. express themselves in at least one European language besides their mother tongue and English so that they can engage in European multilingual realities; LO6. have developed a large set of transversal skills which students need to master in their future domestic and international work environments, so that they are equipped to use organizational, intercultural communication, language and information skills, when confronted with the challenges of daily professional practice. LO7. 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. LO8. have insight in European Studies as a multi-disciplinary field of scholarship and education, so that students are aware: ▪ of the importance of the academic knowledge development of various disciplines that feed into the understanding and explanation of Europe; ▪ of utilizing the knowledge provided by these various disciplines, including their diverse conceptual, theoretical and methodological perspectives, in their own academic careers and/or professional work environments.

Course objectives	This course aims to provide students with a general introduction to academic research, its basics and foundations, as well to their academic and professional development.
Content	Students will be initiated towards their own research and guided in their own academic and professional development. They will be trained to develop their own academic interests, to understand the needs of proper academic research, develop their skills to design their own research, to understand the conceptual, methodological, analytical and empirical needs of their future research. The course content is structured along four building-blocs: Bloc 1: Foundations of academic inquiry - what is knowledge, what is science - what is research and why do we need it - critical thinking and argumentation Bloc 2: Research Logic and Design - from topic to a research question - concepts, theories and frameworks - types of research and academic disciplines Bloc 3: Doing research - research structure and process - sources, credibility and academic integrity - research ethics and positionality Bloc 4: Academic and professional development - professional fields and skills in European Studies
Work format(s)	The course is taught by various professors from partner universities of UNA Europa online . In addition to the online components of the course, students will be able meet on campus in smaller groups under the guidance of professors of the relevant university.
Manner of assessment	▪ Permanent participation ▪ Permanent evaluation, incl. group presentations/term papers
Literature (required/recommended)	Panke, Diana: Research Design and Method Selection. Making Good Choices in the Social Sciences. Sage, 2018. Turabian, Kate L.: A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses and Dissertations. 9th edition. Chicago University Press, 2018.