

Course title	<i>Research Design and Thesis Lab</i>
Credits	6
University	KU Leuven, University of Bologna, Jagiellonian University in Krakow, UCM
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. 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. LO6. 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. LO7. have insight in European Studies as a multi-disciplinary field of scholarship and education, so that students are aware [...]
Course objectives	This course aims to deepen students' insights with their academic development, research design and bachelor thesis research. It is especially focused on exploring some peculiarities of research in different disciplines, as well as on the process of preparing the Bachelor thesis.

Content	Building on the insights of ‘Research Design’ and ‘Quantitative and Qualitative Methods’ this course aims to help students find their develop their own research ideas and interests. By learning research design techniques, students will be set on track to discover relevant fields of research, to ask, respectively, relevant research questions about the research field. Students will also be trained how to use concepts and theories in the field of European Studies to sharpen their research angles. Furthermore, students will be asked to look into ways of finding and engaging in relevant data which can help them grasp their field of research empirically by using various methodologies. Students are asked to develop a research project, which could, in light of the future specializations in the bachelor, lead towards a bachelor thesis topic. The course content is structured along three building-blocs: Bloc 1: Research design and academic writing - how to develop a research topic and research questions - literature review - theoretical framework - methodology Bloc 2: Disciplinary workshops - research approaches typical for the discipline - suitable methods and RQ - structure and examples of disciplinary research. Bloc 3. Thesis Lab 3.1 : Bachelor thesis Lab (theoretical) - what is a bachelor thesis and thesis proposal + formal requirements for the BAES thesis - how to manage your work (planning, dealing with stress, how to work with a supervisor, managing expectations) - academic integrity and use of AI 3.2: Bachelor thesis Lab (practical) - peer-review working sessions and writing labs (sharing drafts of different elements of research proposal and peer review). - peer-review presentations
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/research project
Literature (required/recommended)	Turabian, Kate L.: A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses and Dissertations. 9th edition. Chicago University Press, 2018