

Master's Programme

Compulsory modules

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Mastering Academic Research Skills and Methods

Full course description

The Skills Track spans from September to January (period 1 - 3), and provides training on various professional and research skills related to academic communication (verbal and written), research design skills (formulation of research questions, basic design of an academic study, choice of methods), as well as working with (academic) sources. The Research Skills component of the Integrated Skills Track is designed to train students in the most important skills required to accomplish research projects in European Studies and European Public Affairs, as well as to prepare for the drafting of the MA ES and MA EPA final work - the internship thesis.

Course objectives

The main goal of the Integrated Skills Track is to equip the students with practical skills indispensable for the contemporary European Studies graduate such as presentation and writing skills, team-work and strategic communication. In addition, the course prepares the students for the drafting of their graduation project - the thesis. This is a substantial piece of individual scholarly work, based on your independent research, that has the potential to make an original contribution to the state of the art research in the field of European Studies.

After the completion of the Mastering Academic Research Course you are able to:

- Design, plan, and implement an independent research project in the field of European Studies;
- Generate new ideas related to the process of European integration, identify new academic questions and policy problems, and stay up-to-date with the academic and policy literature;
- Select qualitative and quantitative research methods appropriate for answering advanced academic questions about the process of European integration;
- Apply substantive knowledge, theories, and methods in the field of European Studies to new research puzzles in order to facilitate innovation;
- Reach well-reasoned conclusions about the process of European integration and European policy making by combining substantive knowledge, theories, and methods;
- Express research findings on European integration to specialist European and international academic audiences in written academic English through the medium of the MA/EPA thesis.

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By completing your thesis you will show that you have fulfilled all the objectives of the MA in European Studies/EPA MA: You will have strong knowledge of the process of European integration and policy making; you are able to apply concepts and theories to relevant cases.

Prerequisites

None

Recommended reading

Blaikie, Norman. (2007). *Approaches to Social Enquiry: Advancing Knowledge*. 2nd ed., Cambridge: Polity

Booth, Wayne C., Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams, Joseph Bizup, and William T. FitzGerald. 2016. *The Craft of Research*. Fourth ed. Chicago: University Of Chicago Press.

Gerring, John. 2012. *Social Science Methodology: A Unified Framework*. Second ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Gerring, John. 2016. *Case Study Research: Principles and Practices*. Second ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Grix, Jonathan. (2004). *The Foundations of Research*. Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan.

Howard, Christopher. 2017. *Thinking Like a Political Scientist: A Practical Guide to Research Methods*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

Moses, J. and T. Knutsen (2007). *Ways of Knowing: Competing Methodologies in Social and Political Research*. Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan.

Mosley, Layna, ed. 2013. *Interview Research in Political Science*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.

Thomas, Gary. 2017. *How to Do your Research Project: A Guide for Students*. 3d edition.

EUS4500

Period 1

5 Sep 2022

28 Oct 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

3.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [A. Dandashly](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), Paper(s), Presentation(s), Research, Skills, Work in subgroups

Assessment methods:

Assignment, Final paper

Keywords:

Research and writing skills, team work, personal effectiveness, communication and presentation skills

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Researching and Writing the MA ES Thesis

Full course description

The MAES thesis (period 4 - 6) is an external representation that you have achieved the expertise necessary to be a professional in your field. It demonstrates that you know how to approach and master complex ideas and information; you have mastered your discipline's knowledge base, acquired its professional skills and competencies, and are capable of doing independent research. Fortunately you are not alone in writing your thesis. While EUS 4500 - Mastering Academic Research Skills and Methods (MARSaM) course introduces you to the research methods you have at your disposal and discusses why and how certain methods are used to explore and understand certain phenomena. In EUS 4801 - Researching and Writing the MA Thesis, you will also learn how to develop and evaluate sensible and systematic scientific research puzzles and good research output. After submitting your research design in period 3 (January), In EUS 4801, you will be working closely with your supervisor to implement your research design: to actually write your thesis. Furthermore, we provide you with additional support through methods clinics, writing workshops, and a thesis conference. So Research and Writing Course (EUS 4801) consists of:

- Supervision
- Research Methods Clinics in period 4
- Writing Workshops with John Harbord in period 4
- Thesis Workshop/Conference to present your research in the month of May

By completing your MA thesis (14,000-15,000 words) you will show that you have fulfilled all the objectives of the MA in European Studies: You will have strong knowledge of the process of European integration; you are able to apply concepts and theories to relevant cases and come to informed conclusions; you are able to communicate your conclusions; and you have done a large scale research project autonomously."

EUS4801

Period 4

6 Feb 2023

7 Apr 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

15.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [A. Dandashly](#)

Assessment methods:

Final paper

Key Challenges for Contemporary Europe: Historical and Interdisciplinary Perspectives

Full course description

Since at least the onset of the financial crisis in 2008, we have become accustomed to thinking about Europe in an alarmist tenor. To many, the last two decades have witnessed nothing but a seemingly never-ending series of upheavals: from the financial crisis through to the migration crisis, the rule of law crisis in Eastern Europe and the surge of populist movements across the continent, the Brexit vote, the environmental crisis, the Covid pandemic, and more recently the Russian invasion of Ukraine. In light of this, it would be easy to conclude that Europe, or perhaps the project of European integration, is reaching its terminus. Rather than resigning in front of such calamities, however, for students of European Studies the main task is to understand the challenges faced both by those living on the continent as well as by those around the globe affected by the choices made in Europe.

Key Challenges for Contemporary Europe: Historical and Interdisciplinary Perspectives is intended as a course that will allow you to do just that. It explores major political, social, and economic challenges in contemporary Europe by tracing their long-term genealogy. Rather than simply treating such challenges in a presentist manner as the immediate expressions of recent political choices and the ups-and-downs of party politics, we shall take an emphatically historical approach to understand the long-term gestation of these problems since the end of the Second World War and the beginning of the so-called 'post-war' era. In doing so, our aim will be to approach what scholars now call the 'history of the present' through understanding the underlying causes, dynamics, agencies, and structures that have fused to produce the present we inhabit today.

Course objectives

After the completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Demonstrate advanced knowledge of major challenges in contemporary Europe and their historical gestation, including knowledge of major political, social, economic, and international developments in Europe since 1945 and the ways in which they impact contemporary Europe
- Demonstrate knowledge of academic concepts and frameworks from the fields of history, political science, international relations, and sociology aimed at understanding the process of European integration and its relation to other major trends in post-war European history
- Apply knowledge and understanding of the process of European integration, within its historical, political, societal, and international contexts, to academic and societal questions
- Analyse, understand, differentiate, and critically assess how scholars of European Studies have studied the historical origins and evolution of major contemporary challenges
- Evaluate, compare, and develop scholarly arguments in the field of European Studies in view of forming a judgement on the state of the art in the field
- Appraise, contextualise, and judge past and ongoing developments in Europe and in the process of European integration, including its historical, political, societal, and international context
- Identify, retrieve, synthesise, and critically appraise various source materials to build evidence-based arguments; and to use ethical rules related to scholarly work, including styles

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of acknowledgement, use of the sources of others, and the proper use of referencing

- Participate in scholarly and policy debates on European history and integration, within the international PBL classroom, with an awareness of the requirements of intercultural communication

Recommended reading

- Patel, K. (2020). Project Europe: A History. Cambridge University Press
- Dinan, D. (2014). Origins and Evolution of the European Union. Oxford University Press (2nd edition).
- H. Zimmermann, & A. Dür (eds.) (2012), Key Controversies in European Integration. Palgrave.
- Judt, T. (2005). Postwar. A History of Europe Since 1945. London: Penguin.
- Börzel, T. A. (2018). Researching the EU (studies) into Demise? Journal of European Public Policy, 25(3), 475-485.
- Gilbert, M. (2008), Narrating the Process: Questioning the Progressive Story of European Integration. Journal of Common Market Studies, 46: 641-662.

EUS4022

Period 1

5 Sep 2022

28 Oct 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

12.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [C. Erlichman](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Skills, Lecture(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Written exam

Keywords:

European Studies, contemporary challenges, post-war Europe, Democracy, populism, Migration, Identity, Colonialism, Welfare state, borders, Crisis