

INTERNET-BASED RESEARCH: THEORY AND APPLICATION

MVZ507

SPRING 2019

Introduction



Maya Hadar

OBJECTIVES OF THE SEMINAR

01

To develop an overview of concepts, methods and applications of Internet based research (experimental + big data)

02

Applying theoretic knowledge in designing and conducting your own online surveys

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- **STUDENTS WOULD ACQUIRE SOLID UNDERSTANDING OF CONCEPTS CENTRAL TO THE FIELD OF INTERNET-BASED RESEARCH.**
- **STUDENTS WOULD GET AN OVERVIEW OF THE MOST COMMONLY USED INDICES IN THE FIELDS OF INTERNATIONAL RELATION AND POLITICAL SCIENCE.**
- **STUDENTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO USE ONLINE INDICES IN THEIR OWN RESEARCH.**

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- **STUDENTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO DESIGN AND CARRY OUT A BASIC ONLINE SURVEY/EXPERIMENT.**
- **STUDENTS WOULD POSSESS BASIC SKILLS AND COMPETENCES TO DESIGN, CONDUCT AND ANALYSE DATA ORIGINATED IN THE WEB.**

TACKLED QUESTIONS

How can online sources be used for academic research?

How can I make sure that the sources i'm using are reliable?

How do i make sense of big data (online)?

I'm interested in researching ..., does it make sense to design & carry out an online survey/experiment?

I know nothing about codes and logarithms, can i still design & carry out surveys/experiments online?

How do I 'get' people to participate in my research?

What are the most common indices, used in my fields of study?

STRUCTURE

Theoretical understanding of core concepts of internet-based research

Students will design and execute their own online surveys

Online indices as data sources in academic research conducted in political science and international relations would be discussed

COURSE STRUCTURE

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Feb 21 | 1. Introduction to the seminar |
| Feb 28 | 2. Introduction to internet-based research and online data |
| March 7 | 3. Early history & methodology of Internet-based research- reading week |
| March 14 | 4. Mining Big Data, Amazon's mechanical Turk, Survey Data |
| March 21 | 5. Internet research in political science |
| March 28 | 6. Internet research in political science |
| April 4 | 7. Internet-based research: students' presentations |
| April 11 | 8. Practical session- How to create your own web experiment/survey |
| April 18 | 9. Introduction to using online indices in conducting academic research |
| April 25 | 10. Common Indices in Poli-sci and IR: students' presentations |
| May 2 | 11. Practical Session- work on your own survey (in class) |
| May 9 | 12. Practical Session- work on your own survey (at home) |
| May 16 | 13. The ethics of internet research, summary and conclusion, feedback |

STUDENT REQUIREMENTS

- **PASS/FAIL**
- **WEEKLY READINGS**
- **2 PRESENTATION (ONE PAPER + ONE INDEX)**
- **CARRY OUT A SIMPLE ONLINE SURVEY/EXPERIMENT**
- **FINAL PAPER: YOUR SURVEY/EXPERIMENT => QUESTION, PROCES, OUTCOMES**
- **ALL REQUIREMENTS ARE MANDATORY FOR A SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE SEMINAR**

PRESENTATIONS

One research paper, one online index

Research paper =>

- **Author, journal, research question, methodology, findings, conclusion and later literature citing the paper**
- **Original input (concerning future research, critical feedback etc.)**
- **10-20 minutes**

On line index=>

- **Basic information about the research centre/institute which is heading the index, description of the goal of the index, the methodology used, the system of scaling/scores, highlight from the most current index and an example of how the data was used in contemporary academic research**
- **10-20 minutes**

FINAL PAPER



**Based on
your own
online
survey**



**You choose
the topic!**



**Topic
should be
communica
ted to the
lecture via
email by
14.03**



**Focus on
the
research
question
and work
process,
less on
findings**



**2,000-2,500
words (6-7
pages)**



**Submission
deadline
June 1st,
2019 at
9:00 (can
submit
before)**



**Basic
structure
and writing
guidelines
will be
provided**

FURTHER INFORMATION

- **MAKE SURE YOU HAVE ACCESS TO A COMPUTER CONNECTED TO THE INTERNET**
- **SET A GOOGLE ACCOUNT (TO GAIN ACCESS TO GOOGLE FORMS)**
- **THINK OF POTENTIAL IDEAS FOR YOUR SURVEY/EXPERIMENT (KEEP IT SIMPLE!)**
 - **AN INTERESTING RESEARCH QUESTION THAT HAS TO DO WITH PEOPLE'S PERCEPTIONS, REACTIONS, PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS**
 - **"STUDENTS OF POLITICAL SCIENCE EXPRESS A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF CONTEMPORARY POLITICS"**
 - **"PEOPLE FIND INFORMATION MORE CONVINCING WHEN THEY READ IT IN HARDCOPY RATHER THAN ONLINE/MITIGATED BY AGE?"**

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

- **SURVEY TOPIC => SESSION 3**
- **ASSIGNMENT OF PRESENTATIONS => SESSION 2**
- **SUBMISSION OF THE FINAL PAPER => JUNE 1ST (EARLIER SUBMISSION IS POSSIBLE)**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **WILL THE PRESENTATIONS BE UPLOADED TO IS? YES**
- **WHERE CAN I FIND THE READINGS? IN IS**
- **IS LECTURE ATTENDANCE MANDATORY? YES**
- **DO I NEED ANY PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE OF EXPERIMENTAL RESEARCH/DEEP UNDERSTANDING OF COMPUTERS? NO**
- **WHAT IF I NEED FURTHER SUPPORT? EMAIL ME 😊**
- **WHY SHOULD I TAKE THIS SEMINAR? RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY, KNOWLEDGE CAN EASILY BE IMPLEMENTED IN OTHER COURSES**