

Research Design of Studies using Quantitative Methods			
Course Number	00LE62S-LAS-GO0022	Semester - Dates	SS 2015/16 - Block IV
Study Area(s)	Governance, Electives	Credit Points	3 ECTS (SL) + 3 ECTS (PL)
Module(s) (StuPo 2012)	Quantitative and Qualitative Methods Advanced Governance III Elective	Module(s) (StuPo 2015)	Quantitative and Qualitative Methods Advanced Governance III Elective
Open to Students	Year(s) 2,3,4	Max. Enrollment	15
Prerequisites	Introduction to Governance		
Instructor(s)	Elina Schleutker (elina.schleutker@ucf.uni-freiburg.de)		
Times and Rooms	Seminar, Workshops Mon, 8-10h, AU 01036a Tue, 12-14h, HS 6 Wilhelmstr. 26 Wed, 10-14, KG 1234		
Course Description	<p>This course is designed for advanced (third- and fourth-year) students, who would like to learn more about the application of quantitative methods to social science data. The course is divided into six parts, this is the preliminary structure: (1) During the first week we will get familiar with Excel and PSPP (Program for statistical analysis of sampled data, a free version of the widely used software SPSS). We will, for example, calculate some simple measures of centrality and dispersion with help of these programs. (2) During the second week we discuss the common difficulties with data availability, and familiarize ourselves with some most important datasets in the field of political science and sociology. We continue to work with PSPP, and learn to merge datasets, delete cases, calculate new variables and recode old ones. (3) We learn to use a large dataset which includes data for all the countries in the world for a longer time period. In particular, we replicate a study which employs the dataset. As a part of the replication, we run some simple linear regressions. (4) During the fourth week we likewise replicate a study, but this time with individual level data. Moreover, we learn about the logit regression. (5) After we are comfortable with PSPP and regression analysis, we will devote one week for a discussion about the limits of regression, and about the possible alternatives. (6) In the final week of the course we conclude, and discuss a topic the students find interesting and important for their future studies.</p> <p>The course is centered on the idea of learning-by-doing and consequently, the maximum number of course participants is limited to 15. The examination consists of home assignments.</p>		
Remarks			