Mixed Methods in Practice

Course Catalogue Number
75250090FY

Credits
6 EC

Entry requirements
The course is open to students of the Research Master Social Sciences (RMSS) in the mixed methods specialization.
Students must have completed the Mixed Methods in Social Sciences and Fieldwork/ Internship

Instruction language
English

Time Period(s)
2024-2025, semester 1, block 3

Location
See https://rooster.uva.nl.

Video recording Lectures – optional
The lecture will not be recorded

Lecturer(s)
Andres Sandoval, Ph.D. , REC B9.00 a.a.sandoval@uva.nl
Email for appointment

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

a) Analyze quantitative and qualitive data employing a mixed methods approach
b) Asses the quality, validity and credibility of data collection
c) Connect quantitative and qualitative data to arguments
d) Develop oral skills to present own research
e) Develop writing skills.

These learning outcomes relate to the following exit qualifications of the RMSS:

1. The graduate has acquired knowledge and understanding:

a) Of the theories and relevant research methods and techniques within the candidate's chosen methodological specialization;

2. The acquired cognitive and/or professional abilities enable the graduate to apply:

a) Theoretical, epistemological and methodological knowledge and insight to the formulation and resolution of scientifically and socially relevant research problems in a disciplinary, multidisciplinary and/or interdisciplinary context;

b) Theoretical, epistemological, and methodological knowledge to translate relevant research problems and objectives into an appropriate research design within the domain of the social sciences.

c) In-depth knowledge of and experience with advanced research methods and techniques relevant to a specific research problem;

g) Skills to think and work in a scholarly fashion at a level of achievement in accordance with an internationally recognized research MSc standard;

3. Concerning the ability of formulating judgements, the graduate should be able to:

d) Give due consideration to the societal and ethical aspects of research and act in accordance with them.

4. The graduate should be able to use the following communicative skills:

b) Independently present social science research findings both orally and in writing in English to the required scholarly standard, making use of theoretical insights relevant to the particular research problem under study;

5. The graduate has acquired the following learning skills:

b) A critical attitude and the analytical and research skills needed to qualify for a PhD study after graduation or to function on a professional level in research and policy departments of governmental and non-governmental organizations.

Course Content

Mixed methods in Practice is a course designed to guide students in refining, evaluating, and advancing their research projects through a mixed methods framework. For those who have completed fieldwork, the course provides an opportunity to analyze and integrate diverse data types, preparing them for thesis writing. Others will focus on developing comprehensive research proposals that incorporate both qualitative and quantitative approaches. This course adopts an active learning approach, blending research redesign with the development of advanced analytical skills to prepare students for their Research Master thesis writing. Through a combination of hands-on exercises and substantive seminar discussions, students will engage with the challenges of working with varied data sources and explore strategies to leverage the strengths of each method to create cohesive mixed methods research. The course curriculum addresses key topics, including: 1) transitioning from proposing research to presenting findings; 2) assessing and analyzing data collected during fieldwork; 3) writing up fieldwork results (with an emphasis on analytical writing, linking theory with evidence, and triangulating findings); and 4) effectively presenting findings.

Teaching methods and learning formats
The course comprises a combination of readings, seminar presentations, seminar discussions, a group assignment and individual assignments. We meet once per week for three hours this means the preparation for each class requires a substantial amount of time and effort.

Manner & Form of Assessment and Assessment Criteria

This course is AVV/NAV i.e. pass/fail. Assessment consists of active and prepared class attendance, reflection papers, workshops, a presentation of student's research. All assignments must be submitted before January 30th to get a passing grade.

 To pass the course, students must complete all assignments satisfactorily. If an assignment is submitted unsatisfactorily, students will have ONE opportunity to resubmit it in the next class session.

Assignments are due on the specified date and must be submitted via Canvas. Late submission will only be accepted in exceptional circumstances. In case students miss the final presentation, they will have to submit a video instead.

Course summary

Assignments	Deadlines
Pre-course survey	January 6th, 6PM
Reflection paper #1	January 13th, 6PM
Reflection paper #2	January 20th, 6PM
Workshops	January 27th, 6PM
Presentation	January 30th, 6PM

1. **Pre-course survey**

Please fill out this short survey to know more about your expectations about the course. This activity will be NOT assessed, however it will serve to enhance your experience with the course.

DUE DATE: January 6th (5PM)

Link: https://tinyurl.com/mryj2z82

2. **Reflection papers**

Student will submit TWO reflection papers (minimum 600 words) that critically engage with the session readings and discuss its relevance for the student's own research. These papers should NOT summarize the readings but instead students are encouraged to use these papers to reflect on how the readings inform, challenge, or reshape their understanding of their own work.

- Paper #1 (DUE: January 13th, 6PM): Fieldwork often brings unexpected challenges to linear research designs. Drawing from your own experience, reflect on the following: What challenges did you face during fieldwork? How did your fieldwork experience inspire changes or adaptations to your research design? How can you adopt a 'craft attitude' in your research?

- Paper #2 (DUE: January 20th, 6PM): Different research methods often produce contrasting perspectives, or even conflicting findings, creating analytical challenges for researchers. Based on your own experience, reflect on the following: Have you encountered any dissonance or divergence in your research findings? What strategies could you use to reconcile or integrate these contrasting findings into a 'warranted assertion'?

Assessment criteria

- Critical engagement with reading: Shows understanding of the readings key ideas
- Connection to own research: How well the paper connects/inform session readings to the student own research questions
- Clarity and writing

3. **Workshops**

This course is designed around active learning exercises, with a particular emphasis on in-class workshops. These workshops are critical for building the skills and insights necessary to successfully complete the final research paper.

Throughout the course, there will be TWO workshops. These are clearly marked in the program with the letter "W". Below is a description of each workshop:

- Implementation Matrix: This workshop focuses on visually representing the flow of mixed methods research design. Students will discuss their research design choices and explore how methods integrate in sequential, parallel, or complementary ways.

- Joint Display: This workshop focuses on connecting arguments with qualitative and quantitative data with a focus on integration. Students' will explain how the qualitative and quantitative data supports their main claims or arguments.

Complete and polished workshops will be due on January 27th at 6PM. Each visual display must be accompanied by a short explanation that allows the reader to follow through.

Assessment criteria:

- Completeness: Each workshop includes all required components.
- Visual representation and organization: Coherent and well-structured display
- Analysis and critical thinking: Thoughtful integration of data, methods connect with supporting claims and theory/arguments.
- Coherence: Clear and logical articulation of design choices their relationships and sequencing

4. Presentations

Students will prepare a presentation to show their research design, describe their fieldwork, and preliminary findings.

The presentations will take place in two 40-minute blocks, with five students presenting in each block. Each presentation will last 10 minutes, followed by 5 minutes for audience questions. Presentations must be uploaded after class meets on January 30th, 6 PM to canvas on PowerPoint or PDF format.

Assessment criteria:

- Content: coherence of the research design, critical discussion of analysis/findings and limitations.
- Organization and structures: The presentation should follow a logical flow: hook, research question, previously literature, argument/hypotheses, findings, and concluding remarks. Time management.
- Delivery and Communication: Use appropriate language, engagement with audience, visual aids.

Class attendance
Class attendance is compulsory. Students can miss 1 out of 8 scheduled meetings. If you are going to miss a class, please notify the instructor in advance. Only in case of extenuating circumstances students can miss more sessions, in that case please contact the study advisor (studyadvisor-rmss@uva.nl).

Students are expected to come well-prepared for seminars and to actively participate in class discussions, group activities, and workshops. Failure to prepare adequately or engage in these activities will be considered equivalent to an absence.

Feedback on assignments
Students receive oral feedback during workshops, and written feedback on reflection papers via Canvas.

Rules regarding fraud and plagiarism
The provisions of the Regulations Governing Fraud and Plagiarism for UvA Students apply in full. Access this regulation at https://student.uva.nl/en/topics/plagiarism-and-fraud Plagiarism will be assessed through the Canvas application Turnitin Similarity.

Date Final Grade
The final grades will be available to students 15 working days after submission of all assignments. The final grades also need to be available at least 10 working days before a resit.

Required Book:

- Bazeley, P. (2018). Integrating Analyses in Mixed Methods Research. SAGE Publications Ltd.

Program

Session 1 (Tuesday, January 7th): Introduction

Fill out course survey by January 6th.

Be prepared to introduce yourself and speak about your research for 2 minutes.

Readings:

- Zhou, Y., & Wu, M. L. (2022). Reported Methodological Challenges in Empirical Mixed Methods Articles: A Review on JMMR and IJMRA. Journal of Mixed Methods Research, 16(1), 47–63.

Session 2 (Thursday, January 9th): Mixed methods designs (W)

Readings:

- Bazeley, P. (2018). "Chapter 3: Planning for analysis". Integrating Analyses in Mixed Methods Research. SAGE Publications Ltd.
- Creswell, J. W., & Plano Clark, V. L. (2018). "Chapter 7: Analysing and Interpreting Data in Mixed Methods Research". Designing and conducting mixed methods research (Third edition). Sage.
- Haynes-Brown, T. K. (2024). The Role of the Implementation Matrix in Designing and Reporting Integration Decisions in a Mixed Methods Study. Journal of Mixed Methods Research, 18(3), 393–403.

Read and bring your research design with you

Workshop: Implementation Matrix

Session 3 (Tuesday, January 14th): Iterative Research Design

Readings:

- Sanscartier, M. D. (2020). The Craft Attitude: Navigating Mess in Mixed Methods Research. Journal of Mixed Methods Research, 14(1), 47–62
- Symposium on "Fieldwork in Political Science: Encountering Challenges and Crafting Solutions." PS: Political Science and Politics 47:2 (2014).
- Sean Yom, "From Methodology to Practice: Inductive Iteration in Comparative Research," Comparative Political Studies 48:5 (2015), 616-644.

DUE: Reflection paper

Session 4 (Thursday, January 16th): Integration in Mixed Methods (W)

Readings:

- Bazeley, P. (2024). Conceptualizing Integration in Mixed Methods Research. Journal of Mixed Methods Research, 18(3), 225–23.
- Fetters, M. D., & Tajima, C. (2022). Joint Displays of Integrated Data Collection in Mixed Methods Research. International Journal of Qualitative Methods, 21

Workshop: Joint display of Integrated Data

Session 5 (Tuesday, January 21th): Challenges to Integration

Readings:

- Bazeley, P. (2018). "Chapter11: Exploring Dissonance and Divergence". Integrating Analyses in Mixed Methods Research. SAGE Publications Ltd.
- Bazeley, P. (2018). "Chapter 12: From Integrative Analyses to Warranted Assertions and a Coherent, Negotiated Account". Integrating Analyses in Mixed Methods Research. SAGE Publications Ltd.
- Alatinga, K. A., & Williams, J. J. (2019). Mixed Methods Research for Health Policy Development in Africa: The Case of Identifying Very Poor Households for Health Insurance Premium Exemptions in Ghana. Journal of Mixed Methods Research, 13(1), 69–84.

DUE: Reflection paper

Session 6 (Thursday, January 23th): Reporting Mixed Methods Findings

Readings

- Kastellec, J. P., & Leoni, E. L. (2007). Using Graphs Instead of Tables in Political Science. Perspectives on Politics, 5(04).
- Bleich, E and Pekkanen, R."How to report Interview Data". In Mosley, L. (ed). 2015. Interview research in Political Science. Chapter 4
- Bazeley, P. (2015). "Writing Up Multimethod and Mixed Methods Research for Diverse Audiences". In Hesse-Biber, S and Johnson, B. (eds). The Oxford Handbook of Multimethod and Mixed Methods Research Inquiry

Session 7 (Tuesday, January 28th): Reflexivity, Positionality and Transparency

Readings:

- Soedirgo, J and Glas, A. 2020. "Toward Active Reflexivity: Positionality and Practice in the Production of Knowledge".
- "Symposium: Openness in Political Science: Data Access and Research Transparency," Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (QMMR). 2015
- Symposium: Reflexivity from Theory to Practice. 2024. Qualitative and Multi-Method research (QMMR). Spring 2024, Volume 22.1

Guest speaker: Dr. Jessica Soedirgo (UvA)

DUE: Workshops

Session 8 (Thursday, January 30th): Presentations

Upload your presentation to Canvas

No readings assigned for today