

### Research Design

**Course code:** 40G33NAK41M

**Course name :** Research Design

**Course name (Hungarian):** Research Design

**Number of hours per semester:**

**Credits:** 3

**Fall/Spring:** Fall

**Language:** English

**Prerequisites:**

**Course type:**

**Department:** [Összehasonlító és Intézményi Gazdaságtan Tanszék](#)

**Course leader:** [Medve-Bálint Gergő](#)

**Course description:** The course introduces the basic principles of academic writing and research design. The course aims to help students in preparing their MA thesis but it also offers some practical tools for completing their various academic writing assignments. In the first part of the course the students will learn how to identify a research topic, how to formulate a research question, how to perform a literature review, and how to properly reference the sources they use. In the second part, students will learn about the key aspects of empirical research such as the treatment of independent and dependent variables, formulating hypotheses, dealing with causality, case selection and the role of case studies and the structure of research papers.

During the course students will perform individual tasks and complete short written assignments. At the end of the semester they will submit a research paper as the main output of their course work. All the course materials, including the readings will be available on moodle.

Those students who fail to attend more than three classes cannot be graded! Any act of plagiarism results in automatic failing of the course and the case will be reported to the University's ethical committee.

#### Course requirements during the semester:

##### Examination requirements:

**Assessment, grading:** The final grade will be composed of the following elements:

- Research topic (2 points)
- Research question (3 points)
- Preliminary literature review (5 points)
- Five testable hypotheses (5 points)
- Research plan (15 points)
- Outline of the research paper (5 points)
- Research paper (25 points)

Grading:

- 0 - 30: fail (1)
- 31-37: sufficient (2)
- 38-44: satisfactory (3)
- 45-51: good (4)
- 52- : excellent (5)

**Aims, objectives and description of the course:**

**Course schedule:** Monday, 11:40-13:20, E.3.334

**Learning outcomes:**

**Course assessment during the semester:**

**Assignments:**

**Program's name:**

**Readings:**

Compulsory readings:

- Beach, Derek and Rasmuss Brun Pedersen (2013), Process-Tracing Methods, The University of Michigan Press, Chapters 1 and 2
- Bell, Judith (2010), Doing Your Research Project. Fifth Edition, Open University Press. Chapters 2, 4, 6
- Creswell, John W. (2012), Research Design. Fourth Edition, Sage. Chapter 7
- Diamond, Jared (2005), Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed, Penguin Books. Chapter 11
- Gerring, John (2007), Case Study Research, Cambridge University Press, Chapter 1
- King, Gary, Robert E. Keohane and Sidney Verba (1994), Designing Social Inquiry. Princeton University Press. Chapter 1
- Posner, Daniel N. (2004), The Political Salience of Cultural Difference: Why Chewas and Tumbukas are Allies in Zambia but Adversaries in Malawi. American Political Science Review 98(4): 529-545

Recommended readings:

**Course professor(s)/lecturer(s):**