

## DESCRIPTION AND SYLLABUS

Name of the subject in Hungarian:	Research Methodology for International Relations
Name of the subject in English:	Research Methodology for International Relations
Credit value of the subject:	3
The code of the subject in the electronic study system:	BN-REMTIR-03-GY
Classification of the subject:	Obligatory
Language of instruction (in case of non-Hungarian courses):	English
Institute or department responsible for the subject:	Institute of Social Sciences and International Studies
Course type and number of contact hours:	Practical, class per week: 2, class per semester: 0
Mode of study: (Full-time / Part-time):	Full-time training
The semester in which the subject is open for registration:	2022/2023 1st semester
Prerequisite(s):	[Academic Writing (fulfillment)]

### THE PURPOSE OF THE SUBJECT, LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Research Methodology is one of the most fundamental subjects in the entire curriculums of universities, regardless of the specialisation of the students. All professional knowledge is so "professional or scientific," its results are so authentic as its methods make it so. The METU also follows this policy, and the student's thesis is evaluated in this spirit as well as the grade of the thesis is created based on a 10-grading set of criteria. The aim of this course is to summarise the essentials of Research Methodology that all students with a bachelor's degree in IR ought to have today. Achieving this goal includes challenges because students need to be familiar with the philosophical foundations of methodology; they need to learn good questioning, research design, professional data collection, and processing. Briefly, students must be able to read and interpret data. In addition, they should be familiar with the possibilities of qualitative methodology, be able to draw sound conclusions, and at the same time, adhere to the ethical rules of the profession. If any of these are neglected or unknown to them, the professional credibility of their work will be at stake. We will address all of the issues mentioned throughout the course, preparing the students for the methodological challenges and evaluation standards of writing project work and, ultimately, their thesis.

### SUMMARY OF THE CONTENT OF THE SUBJECT

Research Methodology is not only for Ph.D. students and scientists but for all those who want to do professional work on a topic. A person who is familiar with the standards of research methodology will have a much more professional way of thinking and performance. Why? An academic essay, thesis or research project must prove that its author i) can analyze the topic critically, perceptively, and constructively; ii) has skills in gathering and analysing information and presenting a report; iii) reviewed the literature on the topic; iv) has surveyed literature relevant to the topic; iv) has carried out original and significant work, or at least, can express a well-founded, strong opinion in the research field. This course is an introductory but comprehensive and clear way to achieve this goal.

### STUDENT'S TASKS AND PLANNED LEARNING ACTIVITIES:

Students are actively involved in the class work (there are both individual and team exercises) as well as they have individual work at home, so a lot of student's tasks and activities can be listed here, such as active listening, practicing, researching, brainstorming, debating, presenting, writing practice. RM is extremely suitable for assessing, tracking, and improving students' competencies.

## **EVALUATION OF THE SUBJECT:**

The evaluation is based on three achievements. First, the student's performance in the class when we make exercises together as well as the efficiency in his/her research topic on the appointed tutorial (Attendance). In the middle of the term, the students select a research topic that interests them and that they are familiar with. After the approval by the instructor, they will then prepare a presentation on the topic, in which they will introduce the topic to their classmates and all the methodological aspects that will be explained in more detail in their Literature Review. At this phase, each student has the opportunity to consult with the instructor if it is necessary on an appointed tutorial(s). The presentations take place at the end of the semester (see the weekly schedule). This is the second base of the final grade (Presentation). Third, the students compose their own Literature Review and will submit it to the instructor (Literature Review).

Grade totals:

1. Attendance: 10%
2. Presentation: 40%
3. Literature Review: 50%

## **OBLIGATORY READING LIST:**

- Earl R. Babbie: The Practice of Social Research (15th Edition), Cengage Learning, 2020
- Nicholas Walliman: Research Methods - The Basics, Routledge, 2011