

<b>Module 1 Research and Methodology</b>			
Workload	ECTS-Credits	Semester	Length of Module
240 hours (54 hours class contact time, 186 hours self study time)	8	1 <sup>st</sup> semester 2 <sup>nd</sup> semester 3 <sup>rd</sup> / 4 <sup>th</sup> semester	3 semesters
Responsible Academic			
Prof. Dr. Hartmut Aden / Prof. Dr. Wim Nettelstroth			

Structure of the Module		
No.	Section	Class Contact Time
1	Research Seminar I (Qualitative and Quantitative Methods of data analysis)	1 SWS <sup>1</sup>
2	Research Seminar II (Research Design and Proposal)	1 SWS
3	Research Seminar III (Thesis Colloquium)	2 SWS
Module Description		
<p>This is a research theory and research skills focused module and is taught over three semesters. Each section of the module will address a different stage of research, and research methodology in theory and practice. Students develop skills in research methodology, and they are trained to design own research. In the final section of this module students receive support and feedback on the research conducted for their Master's thesis, in order to prepare them for the writing phase of the thesis.</p>		
Module Aims		
<p>This module aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• help students develop a critical and analytical understanding of the theoretical and empirical approaches used in scholarly research</li> <li>• enhance students' critical understanding of research methodology</li> <li>• enhance students' research skills and use of a wide range of primary and secondary academic sources</li> <li>• strengthen students' skills in qualitative and quantitative research and in academic writing.</li> </ul>		
Learning Outcomes/Competences/Skills		
<p>Upon successful completion of the three semesters, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• determine the correct tools for effective study at Master's level</li> <li>• prepare a research proposal for a Master's thesis</li> <li>• present academic work in appropriate format and style and suitable for postgraduate level</li> <li>• communicate methodology and conclusions effectively for an academic audience</li> <li>• conduct an academic literature review.</li> </ul>		

<sup>1</sup> 1 SWS = 45 minutes class contact time during a semester per week

## Content

### **Section 1: Research Seminar I (Methods of data analysis)**

In this first section of the module, students will learn the key skills which will enable them to undertake research design that meets scientific standards. Students will develop an understanding of sampling, as well as quantitative and qualitative design. Students from various disciplinary backgrounds will be brought to a comparable level of research skills.

#### Content:

- Analysis and evaluation of theoretical and empirical research findings from scholars in the broad field of security.
- Scholarly standards for research design (validity, replicability, reliability, representativeness) and their specific meaning in qualitative and quantitative research.
- Methods of qualitative research
- Methods of quantitative research
- Legal research methods
- Specific research methods related to Security Studies

### **Section 2: Research Seminar II (Research Design and Proposal)**

In this part of the module students will learn how to apply research methodology to their own work. Students will continue to develop their research skills, in particular the practical application of academic principles. The module will prepare students for writing their Master's thesis in accordance with academic methodology. Each student will prepare a paper using their research design skills that can serve as a basic proposal for their Master's thesis.

#### Content:

- Evaluation criteria for research designs
- Methodology of research proposals
- Preparation of a research proposal for a Master's thesis

### **Section 3: Research Seminar III (Thesis Colloquium)**

In the final phase of the module students will reflect on their topic for the Master's thesis, as well as on the research question, research strategy and methods and the intermediate results and progress. They will receive feedback from their fellow students and supervising professors. Students will be able to discuss different research approaches and methods, and their respective relevance for different topics.

#### Content:

- Presentation of the preliminary research design related to a Master's thesis.
- Academic argumentation (peer commenting) by other presenters and the lecturer (Students are expected to comment on each other's work and to discuss presentations by other researchers.

## Prerequisites for attending

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Teaching Language
English
Examination
active participation [aktive Teilnahme] (including oral and written contributions), not graded
Relevance of the Examination for the final Scale
0 %