



## **METHODS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES (KPE/VK22)**

FALL TERM

ACADEMIC YEAR 2018/2019 \* 3 ECTS

### **Prof. James T. LaPlant, Ph.D.**

Valdosta State University, Georgia (USA)

[jlaplant@valdosta.edu](mailto:jlaplant@valdosta.edu)

Office: KB 2.09

Office hours: upon request via email

### **I. COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Methods in Social Sciences is a two-day course focusing on research methods in various fields of social sciences. The lectures shall be delivered by Prof. James T. LaPlant, Valdosta State University, Georgia, USA, a leading expert on methodology of research. The content of the course shall be dedicated to practical issues and instances students struggle with when setting up their research designs, research questions, hypotheses, and the data analyses followed by its interpretation. All the areas of methodology, be it qualitative or quantitative methods, as discussed in the course shall be applicable within various fields of social sciences.

### **II. TEACHING ARRANGEMENTS**

The course consists of four lectures (x4 90 min) and it takes place in the room no. **KB 1.09**, Department of Political Science and European Studies, DPES. The course is mandatory for DPES Ph.D. students. It is, however, suitable and highly recommended to other Ph.D. and M.A. students of sundry social studies at Palacky University.

### **III. REQUIREMENTS & ASSESSMENT**

Students are obliged to attend both the afternoon sessions. Since there is no written or oral exam, the credit exam ('zapocet') may be passed and acknowledged only if the attendance is completely fulfilled. Moreover, each student is expected to be prepared in accordance with given readers. The timetable shall be scheduled as follows:

**Monday 19 November 2018 / 1.15 – 4.30 p.m.**

**Tuesday 20 November 2018 / 1.15 – 4.30 p.m.**

#### IV. RECOMMENDED READERS

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- Pollock, Philip H. 2015. *The Essentials of Political Analysis*. Los Angeles: SAGE; CQ Press.
- Lee, Keith E., Bryan, Sydney L. , LaPlant T., James. 2017. "Game Day Meets Election Day: Sports Records, Election Results, and the American South." *Social Science Quarterly* February 2017: 1–13. DOI: 10.1111/ssqu.12356
- Lach, Jiri, LaPlant T., James, Peterson, Jim, Hill, David. 2010. "The Party Isn't Over: An Analysis of the Communist Party in the Czech Republic." *The Journal of Communist Studies and Transition Politics* September 2010: 363–388. DOI: doi.org/10.1080/13523279.2010.499285
- LaPlant T., James, Baun, Michael, Lach, Jiri, Marek, Dan. 2004. "Decentralization in the Czech Republic: The European Union, Political Parties, and the Creation of Regional Assemblies." *Publius: The Journal of Federalism* Winter 2004: 35–51.