GUÍA DOCENTE
2026 - 2027

FICHA TÉCNICA DE LA ASIGNATURA

Datos de la asignatura	
Nombre completo	Research Methods in International Security
Código	E000013476
Impartido en	Master in International Security Management [Primer Curso]
Nivel	Master
Cuatrimestre	Semestral
Créditos	5,0 ECTS
Carácter	Obligatoria
Departamento / Área	Departamento de Relaciones Internacionales

Datos del profesorado	
Profesor	
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DATOS ESPECÍFICOS DE LA ASIGNATURA

Contextualización de la asignatura

Aportación al perfil profesional de la titulación

In this course, we will take a theoretical and practical approach to research in the social sciences with the aim of collecting, analyzing, synthesizing, and presenting information in a clear and reliable manner. This course will cover both qualitative and quantitative methods, including empirical research designs through the use of analysis tools such as SPSS, STATA, NVIVO, etc. In addition, data visualization tools will be utilized for the preparation of written and oral reports with the goal of maximizing the value of our research. The course emphasizes providing analytical skills for the understanding and practical application of research using empirical data with real-life examples from the social sciences.

Competencias - Objetivos

Competencias

The main learning objectives are the following:

- Have a comprehensive grasp of research methodologies in International Security, mostly in practical terms but not only
- Demonstrate the ability to elaborate political analyses, memoranda, reports and recommendations on international security issues, based on the use of different data.
- Search for reliable information for the study and empirical analysis of the main challenges in international security, such as migration, food security, cybersecurity, etc.
- Use advanced data analysis tools relevant to the management of international security challenges.

The competencies aimed to be achieved through this course are:

- GC1 In-depth knowledge of the main vectors of international security that shape trends in global geopolitics.
- SC1 Use of advanced data analysis tools relevant to the management of international security challenges.
- SC2 Ability to identify and use the information necessary for the drafting and presentation of memoranda, reports and recommendations on international security issues.
- SC7 Ability to carry out research work with academic and scientific rigour on international security topics.

Resultados de Aprendizaje

In this course, the following aspects are intended to be addressed:

- Searching for reliable information for the empirical study and analysis of the main challenges in international security, such as migration, food security, cybersecurity, etc.
- Research design.
- Knowledge and handling of quantitative data (e.g., surveys).
- Use of quantitative data analysis tools such as SPSS or STATA.
- Knowledge and handling of qualitative data (e.g., interview data, focus groups, etc.).
- Use of qualitative data analysis tools such as NVIVO or ATLAS.ti.
- Use of data visualization tools with specific software like Datawrapper.

BLOQUES TEMÁTICOS Y CONTENIDOS

Contenidos – Bloques Temáticos

Introduction

1. Introduction to research methods in international security.

Block 1

2. Research Design for International Security Studies

- Research Question and Hypothesis
- Theoretical Framework Review

3. In depth interviews, life histories, and focus groups.

- Techniques to work with vulnerable groups.

4. Writing cases with evidence: coding with NVIVO

- Measuring and Visualising

5. AI for Qualitative Research:

- ResearchRabbit, Mendeley, Consensus and the Research Gap

Block 2

6. Quantitative approaches to security studies.

- The universe of data: primary and secondary sources, international repositories (Eurostat, World Bank, UNHCR, OECD).
- Analysing armed conflict, political violence and security risks.

7. Understanding social network analysis (SNA).

- Tracking disinformation and political radicalization processes.

8. Data visualization.

- From Data to Strategic Insight: Advanced Visualisation Techniques.

9. Leveraging AI for research.

- Using artificial intelligence for security investigations: weighing the benefits against the dangers.

METODOLOGÍA DOCENTE

Aspectos metodológicos generales de la asignatura

The course "Research Methods in International Security" focuses on the essential elements for the analysis and presentation of results from empirical research in international security, through the professor's in-class explanations and both in-person and independent student activities. The professor's presentation of topics will be complemented by individual readings from various sources, enriching the debate and allowing students to engage with the subject in a dynamic and real-world context. Students will learn different analysis techniques and tools in a practical manner and will carry out exercises to apply the knowledge gained during the classes.

Metodología Presencial: Actividades

Practical activities and participation
Individual/group assignments where students apply the knowledge acquired in the course by analyzing data and presenting their results using data visualization tools.

Lectures
Sessions in which the professor presents the topics in a clear and structured manner, supported by bibliographic, audiovisual, or any other appropriate materials that aid in the explanations. Students will actively participate by asking questions or incorporating the knowledge acquired from the readings or materials prepared for the occasion.

Metodología No presencial: Actividades

Final assessment
Written report to evaluate the knowledge acquired throughout the course and the ability to apply and connect concepts with a comprehensive understanding.

Personal study and documentation
Individual study and reading of various documents related to the subjects and planned activities. These documents present different viewpoints and empirical data to enable students to develop a critical perspective on the various topics to be addressed.

EVALUACIÓN Y CRITERIOS DE CALIFICACIÓN

Final assessment (50%)
Written report to evaluate the knowledge acquired throughout the course and the ability to apply and connect concepts with a comprehensive understanding.

Practical activities and participation (40%)
Individual/group assignments where students apply the knowledge acquired in the course by analyzing data and presenting their results using data visualization tools.

Attendance (10%)
Class attendance will be taken into account.

Calificaciones

Committing a serious academic offense—such as plagiarism of previously published materials, cheating during an exam or other assessed activity, or failing to respect basic rules of conduct—may lead to disciplinary proceedings and the loss of two exam sessions.

The use of AI to generate entire assignments or substantial parts thereof, without citing the source or tool used, or when not explicitly allowed in the assignment instructions, will be considered plagiarism and regulated in accordance with the University's General Regulations.

BIBLIOGRAFÍA Y RECURSOS

Bibliografía Básica

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