Syllabus

RESEARCH METHODS : CHINESE POLITICS AND SOCIETY - 46856

Last update 14-10-2015

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: asian studies

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Orna Naftali

Coordinator Email: orna.naftali@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Wed., 12:15-13:15

Teaching Staff:
Dr. Orna Naftali
Course/Module description:
The course provides an introduction of key research tools for the study of modern and contemporary Chinese society and politics. It aims to prepare advanced students in the Asian Studies Department for conducting research on modern and contemporary China in fulfillment of the extended seminar paper (MA thesis) requirement.

Course/Module aims:
- To enable advanced MA students in the Asian Studies Department to develop the methodological aspects of their research on modern and contemporary China
- To assist students in forming a suitable research topic; appropriate research questions; and suitable research methods for addressing these questions
- To present students with useful strategies for locating and critically analyzing secondary sources on modern and contemporary China
- To present students with different primary sources and various methods of collecting and analyzing these sources in the study of modern and contemporary Chinese society and politics
- To discuss problems and challenges which may arise from the use of various primary sources and research methods in the particular case of China, and to present possible solutions for these problems

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
- Identify appropriate research topics & research questions in the study of modern Chinese society and politics
- Locate and critically analyze secondary sources in the study of modern Chinese society and politics
- Analyze the methodological aspects of studies on modern Chinese society and politics
- Formulate the appropriate research methods for the study of particular research questions in Chinese society and politics
- Identify the appropriate primary sources for the study of different issues in Chinese society and politics
- Assess the problems and challenges which accompany the use of various research methods and primary sources in the particular case of China
- Point out solutions for these problems and challenges in the particular case of China
Attendance requirements(%): 100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Exercise

Course/Module Content:
1. Introduction: Research areas and research methods in the study of modern politics and society in China
2. Determining the research topic and research questions; locating and analyzing secondary sources
3. Primary Sources: Government documents in the historical study of modern China
4. Primary Sources: Government documents in the study of contemporary China
5. Media and propaganda sources in the historical study of modern China
6. Media sources in the study of contemporary China: Types and analysis methods
7. Newspapers and Television in the study of contemporary China
8. The Internet as a research tool in the study of contemporary China
9. Field-research in China: Field-sites and Research methods
10. Interviews and Participant-Observations in the study of contemporary Chinese politics and society
11. Interviews in contemporary China: as a tool for historical study
12. Survey Questionnaires as a tool for the study of Contemporary China
13. The position of the foreign researcher in contemporary China: Ethical and methodological issues
13. Conclusion of the course and presentations of participants' projects

Required Reading:


Sheng, Yumin. 2005. "Central-Provincial Relations at the CCP Central Committees:


Steinmiller, Hans. 2011."The Reflective Peephole Method: Ruralism and


Additional Reading Material:


Course/Module evaluation:
End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 20 %
Project work 0 %
Assignments 80 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information:
*The course will follow the format of a practical workshop, while focusing on the specific research projects of each of the participants