## Advanced methodology course: Surveys and Experimental Methods

### About the course

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Forvaltning / Global Studies / Internationale udviklingsstudier / Politik og Administration / International Public Administration and Politics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Activitytype</td>
<td>master course</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching language</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>Tilmelding sker via STADS-Selvbetjening indenfor annonceret tilmeldingsperiode, som du kan se på Studieadministrationens hjemmeside. Når du tilmelder dig kurset, skal du være opmærksom på, om der er sammenfald i tidspunktet for kursusafholdelse og eksamen med andre kurser, du har valgt. Uddannelsesplanlægningen tager udgangspunkt i, at det er muligt at gennemføre et anbefalet studieforløb uden overlap. Men omkring valgfrie elementer og studieplaner som går ud over de anbefaøede studieforløb, kan der forekomme overlap, alt efter hvilke kurser du vælger. Registration through STADS-Selvbetjening within the announced registration period, as you can see on the Studyadministration homepage. When registering for courses, please be aware of the potential conflicts between courses or exam dates on courses. The planning of course activities at Roskilde University is based on the recommended study programs which do not overlap. However, if you choose optional courses and/or study plans that goes beyond the recommended study programs, an overlap of lectures or exam dates may occur depending on which courses you choose. Ved for få tilmeldte aflyses kurset. In case of too few registrations, the course will be cancelled.</td>
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### Detailed description of content

We used to believe that experiments did not work in the social sciences. Today, that view has radically changed. 
Randomized controlled trials and survey experiments fill the pages of scholarly journals, covering everything from government corruption and development interventions over voting behavior and attitudes to immigrants to public recruitment and motivation.

Outside the academy as well, experiments are gaining ground. Governments, including Danish central and local government, evaluate policies experimentally with increasing frequency; think tanks, experts, and even algorithms used to budget public expenditure, increasingly weigh experimental evidence highly; and consultancies increasingly place experimentation as the gold standard for evidence used in serving their clients.

The course introduces students to the art and science of social experimentation, focusing extensively on survey experiments. It places emphasis heavily on design and implementation, for a simple reason: With properly designed and executed experiments, the statistical tools needed for analysis are exceedingly simple. You already know them.

The course consists of ten modules, each oscillating between lectures focused on exemplary published experiments and student work on designing their own experiment, which will form the basis of the exam.

The aim is that students will gain: 
1. Knowledge of the purpose and logic of experimental research design. 
2. Knowledge of types of experimental designs in social science. 
3. Knowledge of the tools needed to analyze experimental data. Skills: 1. Skills in understanding and evaluating experimental results. 2. Skills in designing experiments to answer given or self-determined research questions. 3. Skills in critically assessing and discussing limitations of experimental designs. Competences: 1. Competence to evaluate and assess the benefits and feasibility of experimentation in study and work-life settings. 2. Competence to collaborate with others in the design and implementation of experiments. 3. Competence to reflect on skills acquisition and take responsibility for professional development.

### Expected work effort (ects-declaration)

Sessions: 20 hours Preparation: 70 hours including readings, exercises, and design of own experiments. Exam: 45 hours. In total: 135 hours.

### Course material and reading list

Session 2: Survey Experiments I: Framing and Priming

Session 3: Survey Experiments II: Factorized Experiments

Session 4: Survey Experiments III: Measurement Issues

Session 5: Lab Experiments

Session 6: Analysis I: Heterogeneous Effects

Session 7: Analysis II: Endogeneity

Session 8: Mediation: Can we Test Mechanisms?

Session 9: Natural Experiments

Session 10: Outro

Evaluation of students occurs in the exam, via exercises, peer feedback, and discussions with lecturer. Evaluation surveys will be distributed at least once during the course.

Administration of exams
ISE Studyadministration (ise-studyadministration@ruc.dk)

The responsible course lecturer
Carina Saxlund Bischoff (carinasb@ruc.dk)
Kim Sass Mikkelsen (ksass@ruc.dk)

Type of examination
Oral group examination based on an assignment (the written product) and a poster (size: two A2 pages or equivalent), both prepared by the group. The groups may consist of 2 to 6 students.
The students start the examination with a short presentation, after which the examination is conducted as a dialogue.
During the examination, questions can be asked regarding the entire syllabus.
The size specifications for the written product are as follows:
For 2 students, a maximum of 21,600 characters, including spaces
For 3 students, a maximum of 21,600 characters, including spaces
For 4 students, a maximum of 21,600 characters, including spaces
For 5 students, a maximum of 21,600 characters, including spaces
For 6 students, a maximum of 21,600 characters, including spaces
The size specifications include the cover, table of contents, bibliography, figures and other illustrations, but exclude any appendices. Time allowed for examination including time used for assessment:
For 2 examinees, 20 minutes
For 3 examinees, 30 minutes
For 4 examinees, 40 minutes
For 5 examinees, 50 minutes
For 6 examinees, 60 minutes
There is an individual assessment of each student's performance. The assessment is an overall assessment of the product(s) and the oral examination.
Permitted support and preparation materials during the examination: All.
Assessment: 7-point grading scale.
Moderation: Internal co-assessor

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<tr>
<th>ECTS</th>
<th>5</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Learning outcomes and assessment criteria</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Knowledge and understanding:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Knowledge and understanding of academic and/or scientifically based practice-oriented methods and their application and relevance on an advanced level</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Being able to understand and critically reflect upon academic and/or scientifically based practice-oriented methods in the field of social science research and how they are used in the students’ future careers as, for example, lecturers, project managers, consultants, managers or researchers</td>
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<td>Skills:</td>
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<td>Carrying out studies and analyses with the aid of academic and/or scientifically based practice-oriented methods</td>
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<td>Evaluating and selecting methods from research-related and professional practices</td>
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<td>Being able to communicate and discuss academic and/or scientifically based practice-oriented studies in a type of language that is correct, clear, professionally accurate, well-structured and well-argued</td>
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<td>Competences:</td>
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<td>Co-operation with colleagues in the application of various academic and/or scientifically based practice-oriented methods and forms of analysis in relation to relevant issues in research and professional contexts</td>
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<td>Reflection on one's own learning and taking responsibility for one's own professional development</td>
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<td>Overall content</td>
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<td>Research and professional premises for academic and scientifically based practice-oriented analyses</td>
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<td>Approaches that can be taken towards the use of academic and/or scientifically based practice-oriented tools in research and professional contexts, respectively</td>
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<td>Prerequisites for participation</td>
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<td>Currently no data from curriculum.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prerequisites for participation in the exam</td>
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<td>Teaching and working methods</td>
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<td>Lectures, exercises, student presentations, peer feedback and discussions.</td>
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<td>Type of course</td>
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<td>Optional course</td>
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<td>Exam code(s)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Exam code(s): U41298</td>
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# Surveys and Experimental Methods

**Time**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10-09-2019</td>
<td>08:15 til 10-09-2019 10:00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Location**

23.1-009 - teori (65)

**Teacher**

Kim Sass Mikkelsen (ksass@ruc.dk)

**Content**

**Session 1: The Quest for Causality**

**Reading list**


**Time**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17-09-2019</td>
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**Location**

23.1-009 - teori (65)

**Teacher**

Kim Sass Mikkelsen (ksass@ruc.dk)

**Content**

**Session 2: Survey Experiments I: Framing and Priming**

**Reading list**


**Time**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>24-09-2019</td>
<td>08:15 til 24-09-2019 10:00</td>
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**Location**

23.1-009 - teori (65)
# Session 3: Survey Experiments II: Factorized Experiments

**Reading list**


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## Surveys and Experimental Methods

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>01-10-2019 08:15 til 01-10-2019 10:00</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>23.1-009 - teori (65)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher</td>
<td>Kim Sass Mikkelsen (<a href="mailto:ksass@ruc.dk">ksass@ruc.dk</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Content</td>
<td>Session 4: Survey Experiments III: Measurement Issues</td>
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## Surveys and Experimental Methods

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<th>Time</th>
<th>08-10-2019 08:15 til 08-10-2019 10:00</th>
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<td>23.1-009 - teori (65)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher</td>
<td>Kim Sass Mikkelsen (<a href="mailto:ksass@ruc.dk">ksass@ruc.dk</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Content</td>
<td>Session 5: Lab Experiments</td>
</tr>
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## Surveys and Experimental Methods

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>29-10-2019 08:15 til 29-10-2019 10:00</th>
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</table>
**Surveys and Experimental Methods**

**Time**
05-11-2019 08:15 til 05-11-2019 10:00

**Content**
Session 6: Analysis I: Heterogeneous Effects

**Reading list**


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**Surveys and Experimental Methods**

**Time**
12-11-2019 08:15 til 12-11-2019 10:00

**Content**
Session 7: Analysis II: Endogeneity

**Reading list**


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**Surveys and Experimental Methods**

**Time**
12-11-2019 08:15 til 12-11-2019 10:00

**Content**
Session 8: Mediation: Can we Test Mechanisms?

**Reading list**


### Session 9: Natural Experiments

**Time**  
19-11-2019 08:15 til 19-11-2019 10:00

**Location**  
23.1-009 - teori (65)

**Teacher**  
Kim Sass Mikkelsen (ksass@ruc.dk)

**Content**  
Session 9: Natural Experiments

**Reading list**  

### Session 10: Outro

**Time**  
26-11-2019 08:15 til 26-11-2019 10:00

**Location**  
23.1-009 - teori (65)

**Teacher**  
Kim Sass Mikkelsen (ksass@ruc.dk)

**Content**  
Session 10: Outro

**Reading list**  

### Submission deadline assignment and poster

**Time**  
29-11-2019 10:00 til 29-11-2019 10:00

**Exam (Oral)**

**Time**  
15-01-2020 08:00 til 17-01-2020 17:00
Surveys and Experimental Methods - Re-Submission deadline assignment and poster

| Location       | 04.2-025 - teorirum (40) |

| Time           | 10-02-2020 10:00 til 10-02-2020 10:00 |

| Forberedelsesnorm | Ikke valgt |

| Forberedelsesnorm d-vip | Ikke valgt |

Surveys and Experimental Methods - Reexam (Oral)

| Time           | 17-02-2020 08:15 til 17-02-2020 17:00 |

| Forberedelsesnorm | Ikke valgt |

| Forberedelsesnorm d-vip | Ikke valgt |

| Location       | 04.1-023 - grupperum (12) |