IFI8007	**Mixed Methods Research Designs**		
Study load: 6 (EAP/ECTS)	***Load of contact hours:*** 40	***Study semester:*** Spring 2014	Exam.
Objectives:	To create opportunities for acquiring theoretical knowledge about various mixed methods research designs (MMRD) and to support developing ones ability to apply as well as to evaluate the effectiveness of the use of different research approaches which combine elements of qualitative and quantitative traditions.		
Course outline:	The course starts with providing a holistic framework for understanding the design of any piece of empirical research (including qualitative, quantitative and combined) and proceeds with more practical issues of mixed methods research as introducing various types of mixed methods designs and exploring the possibilities of using different sampling techniques and methods for data collection and analysis in the context of mixed methods research. The course will consist of lectures, seminars and home assignments. For facilitating discussions in the seminars participants will be expected to read selected texts about methodological issues, analyse critically mixed methods studies focussing on the use of research methods and do some practical exercises related to the preparation of some research instrument or technique.		
Learning Outcomes:	• Understands the discourse and crucial issues related to the mixed methods research • Recognizes and can comparatively differentiate between various purposes for using MMRD • Can set up purposes and research questions for MMR • Can choose/compose well suited MMRD on the basis of research purposes and needs • Knows what are the main quality criteria for academic research (incl MMR) and can evaluate the quality of a given study or research design according to these criteria Understands the nodus of writing up a mixed methods study and can avoid typical problems present in mixed methods articles and theses.		
Assessment Methods:	Exam		
Teacher(s):	Prof Katrin Niglas		
Subject name in Estonian:	Kombineeritud uuringudisainid		
Prerequisite subject(s):	Knowledge about research methods at least as described by IFI8003. Prospective participants should notice that it is assumed that they are		

	familiar with most common QUAN and QUAL research designs like survey, experiment, grounded theory, ethnography, narrative research, etc and have some experience in using QUAN and/or QUAL methods and techniques for data collection and analysis. However, some catch-up reading will be provided. Prospective participants should also notice that the course is planned as an overview course of the range of mixed methods ideas with the emphasis on planning and designing mixed methods studies. In this context practical issues like methods for data collection and analysis can be covered only by giving some exemplars (providing systematic and detailed introduction into various MM techniques of data collection and analysis is not planned on this course).
Compulsory Literature:	Compulsory literature will be announced during the course and will be available in the web. If you want to rely on one textbook, I suggest Teddlie, C., & Tashakkori, A. (2009). *Foundations of mixed methods research: Integrating quantitative and qualitative approaches in the social and behavioral sciences.* Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
Replacement Literature:	Plano Clark, V. L., & Creswell, J. W. 2008 The mixed methods reader; Greene, J. C. 2007 Mixing methods in social inquiry; Teddlie, C. & Tashakkori, A. 2009 Foundations of mixed methods research: Integrating quantitative and qualitative approaches in the social and behavioral sciences.
Participation and Exam requirements:	Participation is not compulsory, but strongly recommended. There will be additional home assignments to compensate missed seminars.
Independent work:	The course will consist of combined lecture-seminars (where students are expected to be actively involved) and homework. For facilitating discussions in the seminars participants will be expected to read selected texts about methodological issues, analyze critically mixed methods studies focusing on the use of research methods and do some practical exercises related to the preparation of some research instrument or technique. Those participants are not present in the seminars will be expected to submit these reports as home assignment. All participants will be expected to compose and submit a project work. The project will consist of a detailed and well-founded methodological plan for a mixed methods study, which may be a real research project of participant or an imaginary project envisioned only for educative purposes within this course.
Grading criteria scale or the minimal level necessary for passing the subject:	Home assignments for those who miss seminars will be graded as passed or failed. Independent project work will give a grade for Exam. Project work will be assessed on the normal scale used in the university: "A" - excellent 91-100% "B" - very good 81 - 90% "C" - good 71 - 80% "D" - satisfactory 61-70% "E" - sufficient 51 - 60% "F" - fail 0-50%

Schedule and the program of the course
(seminars start at 16.15 and are scheduled for 5 academic hours)

Date	**Topic(s)**
Day 1 **6.Feb.**	*Participants introduce their background and research interest.* The roots of the debates: quan vs qual approaches and other commonly highlighted methodological dichotomies. The idea of (incommensurable) paradigms vs the idea of methodological continuum. Open and creative but systematic and organized view on methodology. Essential components of research. Classification and main features of research designs: theoretical, empirical and design-based approaches. "Deconstructing" research designs into methodological aspects. General quality criteria for research.
Day 2 **13.Feb.**	*Discussion on the basis of independent reading* Mixed methods purposes and research questions. Mixed methods typologies.
Day 3 **20.Feb.**	*Presentations and discussion on the basis of the homework (aims for MM research projects of participants).* Mixed Methods purposes and typologies (continued + discussion)
Day 4 **6.March**	Mixing within quantitatively oriented research strategies: *Discussion on the basis of the independent reading and analysis of research reports.* Overview of mixed methods sampling and data collection strategies
Day 5 **20.March**	Mixing within qualitatively oriented research strategies: *Discussion on the basis of the independent reading and analysis of research reports.* Overview of mixed methods data analysis
Day 6 **10.April**	Mixing within alternative/combined research strategies: *Discussion on the basis of the independent reading and analysis of research reports.* Making inferences and presenting mixed methods studies
Day 7 **17.April**	*Presentations of student projects* Some examples of mixed methods data analysis
Day 8 **8.May**	*Presentations of student projects* Opening up the idea of methodological continuum. Philosophical issues revisited. Advanced mixed methods designs. *Questions and open discussion* *Feedback*
Day 9 **22.May**	*Presentations of student projects – if needed depending on the number of participants*
To be agreed	*First deadline for home assignments*