**Assignment**

As the title of the course already indicates, the final examination consists of a research design. Your research design is graded with an ‘excellent’, ‘pass’ or a ‘fail’.

The topic: Euroscepticism and right-wing parties in the Netherlands

The assessment criteria are as follows:

Submit a 1,000-1,250 word (not more, not less) research design that contains the following items:

1. Research question

a. Explain how the wider research problem evolves into a workable research

question.

b. Explain the relevance of the research question in relation to the existing academic

literature.

c. Reflect on the type of research question (see readings Toshkov) you have selected.

2. Theories and/or concepts

a. Identify what theory(-ies) or concept(s) you have chosen to analyze your research

question.

b. Reflect upon why these theories or concepts are relevant for answering your

research question.

c. Explain the specific role theory or concepts play in your research (see readings

Toshkov).

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3. Operationalization

a. Describe how your theoretical or conceptual framework can be operationalized

into concrete components.

4. Additional requirements

a. The research design is well written.

b. The research design follows APA. [See the writing guide on Student Portal]

c. The research design contains a list of relevant academic literature and, potentially,

other relevant sources for this research project (this does not count towards the

word limit)

**Readings**

Toshkov, D. (2016). Research Design in Political Science. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Chapter 2 – Types of research and research questions, pp. 23-55

Chapter 3 – Theory in the research process, pp. 56-82

Chapter 4 – Concepts and operationalization, pp. 83-106

Gustafsson, K. and Hagström, L. (2018). What is the Point? Teaching Graduate Students How to

Construct Political Science Research Puzzles, European Political Science, 17, 634-648

Weaver-Hightower, M. (2018). How to Write Qualitative Research. Abingdon: Routledge.

Chapter 8 – Writing about theory and literature, pp. 152-179

Luker, K. (2008). Salsa Dancing into the Social Sciences: Research in an Age of Info-Glut. Cambridge (Massachusetts): Harvard University Press. - Section ‘Operationalization’ in chapter 6 – On Sampling, Operationalization, and Generalization, pp. 113-124.

**Assessment Form**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. **ect** | **Assessment of the paper (double click on the appropriate boxes below)** | | |
| **Fail** | **Pass** | **Excellent** |
| *Research question* | The research question is weak, its relevance is not explained and there is no reflection on the type of question | The research question is sufficient, the relevance is addressed and there is reflection on the type of research question | The research question is very clear, the relevance well explained and convincing, and there is clear reflection on the type of research question |
| *Theories and concepts* | The identified theories or concepts do not match the research question, and it is insufficiently explained why these are relevant and what role they play in the research | The identified theories or concepts match the research question, and it is sufficiently explained why these are relevant and what role they play in the research | The identified theories or concepts match the research question, and it is very clearly explained why these are relevant and what role they play in the research |
| *Operationalization* | The description of how the theoretical or conceptual framework can be applied is weak and cannot be directly applied | The description of how the theoretical or conceptual framework can be applied is sufficient, but would require further work in order to be applied | The description of how the theoretical or conceptual framework can be applied is very clear and can be applied immediately |
| *Additional requirements* | The level of academic English is weak, APA is not applied, and sources are not provided | The level of academic English is adequate, APA is applied, and sources (relevant academic literature) are provided | The level of academic English is very good, APA is applied, and sources (relevant academic literature as well as suggestions for sources to be used in conducting the research) are provided |
| **Additional notes & remarks regarding the assessment, e.g. on safe assign score (if any):** | | | |
| **Final grade + argumentation for the final assessment (clarify the overall assessment in several sentences):** | | | |