Master in Political Ecology
Academic year: 2019-2020

**Q METHODOLOGY**

**Instructor**
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**Objectives**

This part of the Case Study Research and Q methodology course will introduce the theme of Q methodology and explain how Q methodology can be used to explore conflicting views in collective decision-making processes. It will involve two classes. The first class will focus on explaining the method, its steps/process, and what it serves, also presenting an empirical application as a case example of using Q methodology. The second class will involve presentations from students and will be linked to student evaluation (see below for details).

**Program outline**

1. **Q methodology: the method (Christos Zografos)**

Read Barry and Proops (1999) before the class, and get ready to answer questions in the class related to this paper. The further reading texts are not obligatory to read. This class will involve mainly traditional lecturing, combined with some interactive lecturing and classroom activities.


**Further reading:**


2. Applications in Q methodology (Christos Zografos)

For class 2, you will have to present a paper in the class. To do that, you must form a group of 5-6 persons before the class, contact me via email to tell me the names of students who are in your group, read a Q methodology application paper (from the class readings) that I will then send you via email, and then prepare the presentation for the class. You must use your presentation to answer the following three questions:

- What issue Q methodology tries to address in this study?
- For what research and/or policy purposes were study findings useful and how were they useful?
- Give your brief evaluation of the usefulness of employing Q methodology in this study

Depending on class size, you will have 12-15 minutes for your presentation in the class. This will be then followed by a short (5-10 minutes) Q+A with questions from other students and me.

It is preferable if you could make time to read the paper and prepare your presentation between Class 1 and Class 2, as attending Class 1 should make it easier for you to understand your Class 2 paper and answer the questions. But if you are pressed with time, then try to form groups the soonest possible and get in touch with me to notify me who is in your group, so that I pass you your paper and give yourselves more time available for reading it and preparing your presentation.

Class readings (includes the papers you will be asked to present – 1 per group)


Further reading


EVALUATION

This evaluation refers to the mark you will be given for the Q methodology part of the Case Study Research and Q methodology course of the Methodological Applications course. This mark will comprise 50% of your overall mark for the course Case Study Research and Q methodology. The other 50% will be provided by your evaluation on the Case Study Research part of the course.

Marks will be from 1-10.

You will be evaluated on a short, max. 1,000 words, group essay. The essay should present in written text what you have presented in Class 2, i.e. it should provide your answers to the following questions as regards the paper you have presented in that class:

- What issue Q methodology tries to address in this study?
- For what research and/or policy purposes were study findings useful and how were they useful?
- Give your brief evaluation of the usefulness of employing Q methodology in this study

This is a group essay, i.e. one mark will be given to each essay and the same mark will be given to each student in the group.

As the essay is linked to your group Class 2 presentation, you are advised to assign one member of your group to take notes of the feedback discussions and the points that will be raised during the Q+A that will follow right after your presentation, with a view to recording points and ideas that could help you improve your essay. You are also advised to prepare a draft of the essay as text (or bullet point text) for your presentation (i.e. prepare the draft before the presentation), so that after the presentation you only have to incorporate in the draft those Q+A comments and points raised right after your presentation.
The deadline for submitting your group essay is Friday 5 June 2020 (end of day, i.e. 23.59). One person from each group should send your essay to me by email at christos.zografos@upf.edu.

Late submissions will be penalised; specifically, if you are late by:

- 1 day, you will get 1 point off your final mark
- 2 days, you will get 2 points off your final mark
- 3 days, you will get 0 marks for this part (Q methodology) of the Case Study Research and Q methodology course