

Subject name/code:	<b>Theme Related Lecture 1. Advanced Social Sciences Research Design and Methodology for Armenian Studies / BTÖ-AS-0010A</b>
Subject coordinator:	Doktori programvezető
Lecturer(s) of the subject:	Anatolii Tokmantcev, PhD, Assistant Professor
Credits:	10
Lesson type:	Seminar
Brief subject description:	This PhD seminar provides advanced training in social science research design with a thematic focus on contemporary Armenian religious diversity. Students engage critically with qualitative methodologies—including ethnography, interviews, surveys, and archival work—while examining current debates in the study of religion, identity, and community in Armenia. Through intensive methodological workshops, students develop research proposals, refine analytical frameworks, and evaluate ethical issues in fieldwork. By the end of the seminar, participants will be equipped to design and implement rigorous, theoretically grounded research projects addressing the evolving religious landscape of Armenian societies today.
Theoretical knowledge to be acquired:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Religious nationalism</li> <li>2. Religious minorities</li> <li>3. Religious discrimination</li> <li>4. Religion as Discursive Tradition (debates on the nature of religion)</li> <li>5. Folk vs Official Christianity</li> </ol>
Practical knowledge to be acquired:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Analytical engagement with academic literature</li> <li>2. Finding theoretical framework for proposed research</li> <li>3. Articulating proper research question</li> <li>4. Designing research: primary sources, methodology, theoretical framework, among others</li> </ol>
List of the most important required literature (2–4 pieces) with bibliographical details (author, title, edition or specific pages, ISBN)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agadjanian, Alexander. <i>Armenian Christianity today: identity politics and popular practice</i>. Routledge, 2016.</li> <li>2. Cornelio, Jayeel Serrano, et al., eds. <i>Routledge international handbook of religion in global society</i>. London and New York: Routledge, 2021.</li> <li>3. Corley, Felix. "The Armenian Church under the Soviet and independent regimes, part 3: the leadership of Vazgen." <i>Religion, State and Society: The Keston Journal</i> 26.3-4 (1998): 291-355.</li> <li>4. Sarkissian, Ani. "Religion in Postsoviet Armenia: pluralism and identity formation in transition." <i>Religion, State &amp; Society</i> 36.2 (2008): 163-180.</li> </ol>
List of the most important recommended literature (2–4 pieces) with bibliographical details (author, title, edition or specific pages, ISBN)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tokmantcev, Anatolii. <i>Jehovah's Witnesses in Post-Soviet Armenia</i>. University of California, Los Angeles, 2023.</li> <li>2. Tchilingirian, Hratch. "The Armenian Apostolic Church." <i>Eastern Christianity and Politics in the Twenty-First Century</i>. Routledge, 2014. 471-497.</li> </ol>

Theory to practice ratio:	Number of theoretical contact hours: 20	Number of practical contact hours: 6																		
Applied teaching methods:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. discussion and interactive elements,</li> <li>2. group work,</li> <li>3. peer review</li> <li>4. presentations</li> </ol> individual and group-work on minute elements of writing																			
Method of assessment:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Attendance and Participation (30% of the final grade)</li> <li>2. Moderating a discussion (20%)</li> <li>3. Final paper based on original research that includes:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formulating a research question</li> <li>• Delineating a pool of primary sources</li> <li>• Writing an outline of research</li> </ul> </li> </ol>																			
Assessment criteria:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Students are expected to critically engage with academic literature and be able to find similarities and difference in the arguments of different authors</li> <li>2. Students are expected to:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moderate a discussion at least once a semester, which includes providing a brief (15-minute) analytical summary of the assigned readings and driving the discussion with questions.</li> <li>• Submit written assignments before deadline (each 24 hours after a deadline will reduce the grade by 10%)</li> <li>• Be able to show their mastery over the theoretical and practical aspects</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p><b>Grade conversion chart</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>100% scale</th> <th>Letter grade</th> <th>5-point scale</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>90-100</td> <td>A</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>80-89</td> <td>B</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>70-79</td> <td>C</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>60-69</td> <td>D</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>60&gt;</td> <td>F</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		100% scale	Letter grade	5-point scale	90-100	A	5	80-89	B	4	70-79	C	3	60-69	D	2	60>	F	1
100% scale	Letter grade	5-point scale																		
90-100	A	5																		
80-89	B	4																		
70-79	C	3																		
60-69	D	2																		
60>	F	1																		
<p>How the subject contributes to the achievement of the learning outcomes at level 8 of the MKKR, as identified as learning outcomes in the doctoral school's training programme?</p> <p>Elaborate on the way in which competence elements specified in the Training and Outcome Requirements are/may be achieved  <i>(Note: do not simply copy the competence elements from the Training and Outcome Requirements)</i></p>	<p><b>Students will be able to:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Analytically approach major political, economic, social, and cultural aspects of religious diversity in today's Armenia</li> <li>2. Analyze primary sources related of religious diversity through various analytical/theoretical lenses.</li> <li>3. Design original research with clear research question and argument, find primary sources and theoretical framework for the research.</li> </ol>																			

	<p>4. Meaningfully discuss contemporary academic approaches to religion and religious diversity</p>
--	---