

Semester II

Second semester of Euroculture programme is more focused than the first semester. An important element in the second semester is the Methodology seminar (10 ECTS credits) and the Research seminars (8 ECTS credits).

Methodology Seminar

In general the methodology & theory seminar intends to offer students more in-depth theoretical and methodological knowledge and insight and takes the overview offered in the first semester as its point of departure. Its aim is to familiarise students with particular epistemology central to Euroculture approach such as social constructivism and a number of perspectives – cultural, historical, political and social – used to consider issues relevant to the Euroculture programme. Special attention is given to current issues and challenges of Europe. Students are encouraged to choose an area of specialisation at an early stage of the programme.

As part of the seminar, students prepare themselves for the IP by writing a targeted research paper, which is presented at the IP. This IP paper might also serve as preparation for the MA thesis. In this way the student is assisted in generating interesting and feasible questions for the final MA thesis and honing their research and analysing skills.

At the Palacký University the basic aim of the course is to introduce students with the methodology of social sciences and humanities, and its major development in the past (since late 19th century). These examples will be used: history (representing humanities), sociology (representing social sciences) – i.e. two basic units. The course will be structured topically (for each of units). At the beginning the course will be focused on development of research methodology, the ways how historians did research in the past. Later meetings will explain how various historical sources could be used. The unit devoted to sociology will be focused on the basic methodology of quantitative and qualitative analysis.