



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

## COURSE SYLLABUS

### Qualitative Research Methods

2021-1-E4001N076

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#### Learning objectives

Knowledge of the distinctive features of qualitative research in sociology as well as of its specific techniques.

Acquisition of the basic skills to design and carry out a qualitative research project on a relevant topic for contemporary societies.

#### Contents

The course provides a history of qualitative research in social sciences, together with an overview of its epistemological assumptions, basic characteristics and main techniques for data collection and analysis.

#### Detailed program

The course will start with an historical introduction of qualitative research in sociology and a critical discussion of its main epistemological features.

Then, ethnography will be presented as the most important method for qualitative research. An overview of the central issues in qualitative sociology will be provided and the main data-collection and analysis techniques – participant observation, unstructured interview and focus group – will be elucidated.

As far as research competences are concerned, students will learn how:

to elaborate a qualitative research project,

to observe social settings and processes ,  
to generate and analyse ethnographic notes,  
to work out an interview outline,  
to build a theoretical sample,  
to manage, transcribe and analyse unstructured interviews using a software for qualitative data analysis.

## **Prerequisites**

There are no preliminary requirements for the course.

## **Teaching methods**

The course consists of lectures, group projects, lab sessions, and presentations.

In the event of a new Covid-19 emergency during the second term, lessons will be asynchronously video-recorded and made available on the e-learning page of the course. In addition, some web-conferences will be organized to allow collective discussions.

## **Assessment methods**

Attending students: a project work (a collective paper based on a qualitative research experience).

Non-attending students: written examination with open questions.

In the event of a new Covid-19 emergency during the second term, exams will be written (via the e-learning page of esamionline and Respondus Lockdown Browser). The oral, optional, will be carried out using the WebEx platform and on the e-learning page of the course, a public link will be available.

## **Textbooks and Reading Materials**

Attending students

Texts will be announced at the beginning of the course.

Non-attending students:

Texts will be announced at the beginning of the course.

Erasmus students:

- 1) Nagy Hesse-Biber S., Leavy P., "The practice of qualitative research (2nd edition)", Sage Publications (2011);
  - 2) Duneier M., "Sidewalk", New York, Farrar, Straus and Giroux.
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