UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Methodologies For Qualitative For Social Research (blended)

2021-1-E3901N079

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding

Social reality is exposed to incessant changes, especially rapid in recent decades. Sociology is the science that aims to analyse and explain the taken-for-granted reality of social life and to show the processes by which it is changing. The general aim of the course is to provide students with an expertise of concepts and technical tools (knowledge) belonging to the so-called qualitative approach through which they can analyse and interpret social reality and its changes. Methodological skills will also be implemented through guided exercises. These proficiencies are essential for social workers.

Applying knowledge and understanding

The aim is to provide students with the proficiencies to orient themself in the panorama of qualitative empirical social research in order to critically and informed identify problems and intervention methodologies within various organizational structures.

Contents

The course is organized on four foundational and two thematic issues:

1. introduction to social research;

2. the planning of qualitative research and the ethics of social research;

3. the carrying out of qualitative research;

4. qualitative social research and its impact on society;

5. mixed method research;

6. gender sensitive research.

Detailed program

1ª Module: introduction to social research

Scientific research

Qualitative and Quantitative research

2ª Module: the planning of qualitative research and the ethics of social research

The planning of research

The phases of research

Ethics

3ª Module: the carrying out of qualitative research

Choice of issue (relevance, impact)

Literature review

Conceptualization

Proposing the research planning (unit of analysis, sampling, contact method, number of interviews)

Data gathering techniques

Data analysis

4ª Module: qualitative social research and its impact on society

Reporting

Dissemination

Impact on society

5ª Module: mixed method research

6ª Module: gender sensitive research

Prerequisites

Basic educational skills in logic, social culture, and reasonable ability in learning, writing and communication.

Teaching methods

The course will be conducted in blended e-learning (18 hours provided by remote platform and 38 by traditional face to face lessons and exercises).

If Covid-19 pandemic persists, the lessons will take place in a mixed mode: partial attendance in classroom and (asynchronous and synchronous) lessons by remote platform.

Assessment methods

Blended elearning intermediate tests (quizzes and exercises), written and (discretionary) oral examinations.

Evaluation criteria:

Written examination

- Relevancy of the answer towards the subject of question;

- Ability to grasp the essential elements of the proposed issue;

- Ability to present the proposed issue in a coherent and consequential manner;

- Completeness of the elements that constitute the answer;

- Spelling and syntactic accuracy.

Oral examination

- Knowledge related to the topics analyzed in the bibliography and discussed in classroom;

- Ability to expose the proposed issue in an orderly and complete manner;

- Understanding and appropriate use of specific concepts relating to complex sociological phenomena;

- Ability of a critical thinking and reflection.

Each intermediate and final exam will receive a mark:

<18: the student has not obtained the minimum required results and needs to deepen the different issues debate in classroom;

18-21: the student obtained the minimum required results, demonstrating a sufficient knowledge of the issues and a sufficient ability to solve the assigned problems;

22-24: the student obtained a good knowledge of the issues, while demonstrating a modest ability to solve the assigned problems;

25-27: the student has obtained a good knowledge of the most important notions and has demonstrated a good ability to solve the assigned problems;

28-30 with honor: the student has obtained an excellent knowledge of the most important notions and has shown an excellent ability to solve assigned problems.

If Covid-19 pandemic persists, the exams will only be oral. They will be carried out using the WebEx platform; on the e-learning page of the course there will be a public link for access to the examination.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

1) Corbetta P. (2014), Metodologia e tecniche della ricerca sociale - Parte prima. I paradigmi di riferimento, Bologna, il Mulino.

2) Silverman D. (2008), Manuale di ricerca sociale e qualitativa, Roma, Carocci.

A book chosen by the student between:

3a) Amaturo E., Punziano G. (2016), I Mixed Methods nella ricerca sociale, Roma, Carocci.

3b) Decataldo A., Ruspini E. (2014), La ricerca di genere, Roma, Carocci.

Erasmus students may ask for an alternative bibliography in English language.