



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

## COURSE SYLLABUS

### Social Statistics

2021-2-E4102B064

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#### Learning objectives

The aim is to give the tools for the analysis of social phenomena. Implementation of a survey, attitude scales and the basics of social indicators.

The class provides knowledge and understanding of the management of a survey, the analysis of variables in a questionnaire and the construction of synthetic scales and indicators. At the end of the class, the students will be able to: implement a questionnaire, define an attitude scale and create the evaluation measures and choose the appropriate methods to create synthesis indicators. The class allows the student to acquire a solid basis in the use of descriptive and exploratory statistics necessary in any works and which represent an essential basis for the continuation of the university course.

#### Contents

Tools for social research

- Questionnaire: structure and characteristics
- Attitude scales
- Social indicators

## Detailed program

### *First part:*

- Opinion survey, data collection. Questionnaire design.
- Survey questions and response alternatives.
- Respondents and responses: Psychological and cognitive processes, phrasing
- Randomized response technique (RRT): Warner and Simmons methods
- Question order effects and response order effects.
- Attitude scales: Bogardus, Guttman, Thurstone, Likert, Osgood

### *Second part:*

- Human Development Indexes and Gap Indicators.
- Official international and national data base available through Internet.
- Illustrative scheme of the applied research: choice of a social phenomenon, sources ; analysis, missing values analysis
- Raw data and construction of social indicators; check of the adequacy of the indicators; drafting a progress report.

## Prerequisites

Statistics I

## Teaching methods

Frontal and practical lectures. The first faces the theoretical aspects, the second shows , through the use of national and international Open-Data, the different steps of a research: from the acquisition of data, the cleaning of the database, construction of indicators and scales, elementary analysis of results. Software SPSS

## Assessment methods

Attending students: The exam consists of a partial written (concerning questionnaire and attitude scales) and two papers (concerning the part of the indicators), the oral exam is optional.

Not attending students: The exam consists of a written test (exercises and theoretical part) and an oral test (theoretical part)

The theoretical questions in the written test allow verifying the knowledge of the questionnaire's problems, the scales/synthetic indicators plan and implement and their main characteristics. The exercises allow verifying the ability to choose, calculate and comment indicator/ scale with simple practical problems. Furthermore, the theoretical questions and the exercises allow verifying the ability to express themselves with an appropriate technical language.

## Textbooks and Reading Materials

- Vanda Zammuner (1998), Tecniche dell'intervista e del questionario, il Mulino, Bologna
- Enrica Aureli Cutillo (2002) Lezioni di statistica sociale. Fonti, strumenti e metodi. Ed. CISU
- Handbook on Constructing Composite Indicators METHODOLOGY AND USER GUIDE, OECD, European Commission, 2008 (pag. 19-33; pag. 44-49; pag. 83-88, pag. 102-104)

<https://www.oecd.org/std/42495745.pdf>

Teaching material made available during the lessons on e-learning

## Semester

II and III cycle (annual)

## Teaching language

Italian

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