UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Measurement in Psychosocial Sciences

2122-2-E2004P040

Learning area

Study of the Psychological Aspects Underlying Communication

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding

- Research methods in the psycho social field
- Research instruments: questionnaires, indirect measures,
- Reliability and validity of measurement
- Simple Statistical techniques for results testing

Applying knowledge and understanding

- How to develop a research question
- How to operationalize a psychological construct
- Construction of a measure
- Evaluation of a measure
- Use of statistics within a research project

Contents

The course aims at helping students acquire the necessary knowledge to conduct research in the psychosocial field. After a general introduction on measurement in psychology, tools for the investigation of psychosocial constructs (mainly questionnaires and indirect measures) will be examined in detail and the methods of evaluating their psychometric qualities will be discussed.

Numerous examples of scientific research and measuring instruments will be provided. In addition, a research project and a measuring instrument will be built during the course, with the aim to answer a specific research question. We will discuss what are most appropriate statistical techniques, depending on research demand and design.

Detailed program

- Identifying the research question
- The design of the research
- Operationalizing psychological constructs: manipulation and measurement
- Measurement instruments
- Questionnaire
- Measures of implicit and explicit constructs
- Evaluating the psychometric qualities of a measure
- Reliability
- Validity
- Construction of a measure
- Analysis of results of a research project
- Basic notions and applications of simple statistical techniques for testing research questions and hypotheses

Prerequisites

Nothing specific.

Teaching methods

Lectures and practical exercises during which students will be guided in constructing a research project, working in small groups.

Materials (lecture notes and scientific papers) will be made available on the e-learning site of the course, accessible to both attending students and non-attending students.

Lessons will be held in presence, unless further COVID-19-related restrictions are imposed.

Assessment methods

The verification of the learning will be carried out through a written exam (multiple-choice and open questions) and a facultative oral exam.

The written exam aims at ascertaining the specific knowledge of the main theoretical aspects of the course and the ability to construct, evaluate measurement instruments and answer simple research questions with basic statistical technique. Mid term examinations will take place mid-course and at the end of the course.

The facultative oral exam deals with the whole program of the course. Attending students (required attendance: 66% of the lessons) can replace it with a presentation and discussion of the research project that they have developed during the course, through the use of PowerPoint slides. The oral exam allows to increase or decrease by 2 points the score obtained through the written exam.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

The bibliography will be provided by the teacher at the beginning of the course and published on the page of the e-learning website.