

COURSE SYLLABUS

Action Research For Groups and Organizations

2122-2-F5106P012

Learning area

Social Psychology, economic psychology and decision-making

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding

- Historical, philosophical and theoretical foundations of action research
- Comparison among different theoretical and methodological perspectives in action-research (experimental, inductive, participatory, and clinical approaches);
- Action research methodology and application

Applying knowledge and understanding

- Advanced knowledge of the process (context analysis and problem setting, planning, implementation, evaluation) and of the researcher's role
- Advanced knowledge of action research methodology
- The ability to define the research design and to plan intervention

Contents

This course aims at providing a theoretical and methodological framework for planning, implementing and evaluating action-research in various contexts of intervention. Different approaches and their diverse applications will be presented.

Detailed program

- Epistemological, theoretical and methodological perspectives in action-research
- Advances in post-lewinian action research
- Validity criteria
- Quantitative and qualitative methods in action research
- The role of the researcher and of the group in action research

Prerequisites

A good knowledge of Social Psychology, Organizational Psychology and of quantitative e qualitative methods enables a more aware fruition of the course contents. Students lacking such basic knowledge are encouraged to ask for a list of references.

Teaching methods

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

Part of the teaching takes place through the discussion of scientific articles, case studies and exercises on the course topics.

The material (slides and scientific articles) is made available on the e-learning page of the course

Students who regularly attend the course will be given the opportunity to develop some course topics with an essay that analyses a case-study.

Although this course is held in Italian, for Erasmus students course material can also be available in English, and students can take the exam in English if they wish to do so. In this case, a list of references will be provided on request.

Assessment methods

During the Covid-19 emergency period, the way the examination is carried out will be defined and updated according to the University regulations.

The questions aim at ascertaining the effective acquisition of both theoretical knowledge and the ability to apply them to analysis of a real case. The evaluation criteria are: the correctness of the answers, the ability to argue, synthesize, create links, and critically discuss a case.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Detailed information about textbooks and reading material will be published on the e-learning page associated with the course.
