UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Qualitative Methodologies

2223-1-F5106P005

Learning area

Fundamentals and research methods in social and economic psychology

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding

- The theoretical and epistemological basis of the qualitative paradigm
- The methods to collect qualitative data
- The models of qualitative data analysis
- The utility of the software in the qualitative research process

Applying knowledge and understanding

- Critical analysis of qualitative research articles
- Development of a qualitative research project

Contents

The course is structured in three thematic areas.

The first one presents the theoretical and epistemological framework of the more relevant qualitative research approaches.

The second thematic area presents different methods to collect qualitative data (interview, focus group, observation, archive data) discussing the potentials and the limits of each method in relation to the research's aims.

The third thematic area presents the main qualitative data analysis strategies and techniques (content analysis, thematic analysis, discourse analysis) and the potentials/limits of Computer aided analysis.

Detailed program

- The qualitative/quantitative controversy in the methodological debate in psychology
- Ontological and epistemological foundations of qualitative research: historical and linguistic turn in psychology
- Qualitative interview: participants, questions, interviewer's strategies
- Focus group discussion: participants, question grid and stimuli, the role of moderator and observer
- Participant and non-participant observation: the choice of the filed, the role of the observer, the observation grid
- Archive data: mass media, institutional, personal and cultural documents
- Qualitative content analysis: top down and bottom-up analysis
- Thematic analysis: the six step of the analysis
- Discourse analysis: strategies and procedures
- The qualitative data analysis software: T-Lab and N-Vivo

Prerequisites

Nothing specific.

Teaching methods

Lessons will be held in presence unless further COVID-19-related restrictions are imposed. . The lessons aim to stimulate the reflexivity of the students on the topics and their articulations through questions, use of films or other mass media material, exercises.

All the material (lessons, lecture notes and, if possible, mass-media contents) is made available on the e-learning site of the course.

Students will have the opportunity to participate in an optional activity, to improve their skills as qualitative researchers. Typically, they will write an interview grid on a research topic that will be identified during the course, they will interview 1/2 persons and they will integrally transcript their interviews.

Assessment methods

The exam is based on a written test that the students will perform on the computer.

The exam focuses on the entire program of the course and it consists of open questions (the attending students who decide to participate to the activity indicated in the Teaching methods section can skip one of the questions of their choice). The questions aim at ascertaining the acquisition of the theoretical knowledge and the language of the discipline.

The answers will be evaluated in relation to the correctness of the contents, the capacity to synthesize, to argue, and to identify the connections between the different areas, to the development of skills concerning a critical reading of the problems under discussion.

For students who request it, an oral exam will be also made available after passing the written exam, on all the topics of the course. The oral exam can lead to an increase or decrease of up to 3 points compared to the written exam score.

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.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

The bibliography will be available when the Course starts on the Course page in the e-learning website.

Sustainable Development Goals

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING | QUALITY EDUCATION | GENDER EQUALITY | REDUCED INEQUALITIES