



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Qualitative Research Methods

2324-1-E4001N076

Learning objectives

Knowledge of the distinctive features of qualitative research in sociology as well as of its specific techniques.

Acquisition of the basic skills to design and carry out a qualitative research project on relevant topics for contemporary societies.

Contents

The course provides a history of qualitative research in social sciences, together with an overview of its epistemological assumptions, basic characteristics and main techniques for data collection and analysis.

Detailed program

In the first part of the course, after providing a historical background to qualitative research, its distinctive epistemological aspects will be presented and discussed.

Subsequently, an overview of the main themes and units of analysis of qualitative research will be presented, and the main construction techniques - participant observation, qualitative interview and focus group - and data analysis will be illustrated.

With regard to research skills, students will learn to develop a research project involving the joint use of several qualitative techniques, to observe social phenomena and situations, to produce and analyse ethnographic notes, to draft an interview outline on a specific topic, to construct a theoretically significant sample, and to conduct, transcribe and analyse qualitative interviews.

Prerequisites

There are no preliminary requirements for the course.

Teaching methods

The course consists of lectures, group projects and presentations.

Assessment methods

Students can choose between:

1. Project work (a collective paper based on a qualitative research experience).
2. Written examination with open-ended questions on the topics discussed in class and outlined in the texts.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

A) Reference texts for those who choose the group research track will be communicated at the beginning of the course.

B) Reference texts for those who choose the written exam:

1) Cardano Mario, Gariglio Luigi (2022) *Metodi qualitativi: Pratiche di ricerca in presenza, a distanza e ibride*, Carocci.

2) Four papers that will be made available on the course's web page

- Madge John (1962) *Lo sviluppo dei metodi di ricerca empirica in sociologia: La scuola di Chicago attorno al 1930*, Il Mulino: pp. 131-173

- Corbetta Piergiorgio (2003) *La ricerca sociale. metodologia e tecniche* Il Mulino: pp. 49-62

- Hacking Ian (1999) *La natura della scienza*: McGraw Hill: pp. 1-23.

- Marzano Marco (2006) *Etnografia e ricerca sociale: Le giustificazioni morali della ricerca sociale*, Laterza: pp. 63-73.

3) Quassoli Fabio (2021) *Clandestino. Il governo delle migrazioni nell'Italia contemporanea*, Meltemi.

C) Reference text for Erasmus students:

1) Nagy Hesse-Biber S., Leavy P., "The practice of qualitative research (2nd edition)", Sage Publications (2011);

2) Duneier M., "Sidewalk", New York, Farrar, Straus and Giroux. Erasmus students:

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION
