UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Quantitative Methodologies

2324-1-F5106P006

Learning area

FUNDAMENTALS AND RESEARCH METHODS IN SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PSYCHOLOGY

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding

- Psychological measurement
- Dimensional structure of empirical data
- Prediction of relevant variables and tests of theoretical models with multiple regressions and analysis of variance
- Basic notions of inferential statistics

Applying knowledge and understanding

- Verification of data dimensional structure through factor analysis
- Use of models of multiple regressions for prediction and for testing theoretical models
- Hypothesis testing, including analysis of variance, in applied contexts

Contents

The course is about quantitative methods, with focus on psychological measurement and on relevant statistical analyses. Concerning data analyses, the course will focus on data dimensionality, with specific emphasis on factor analysis and its use to uncover underlying latent dimensions. Special attention will also be devoted to the issue of

prediction, especially focusing on multiple regression and its use to deal with theoretical issues, such as mediation and moderation processes. Finally, the course will deal with some aspects of inferential statistics and specific focus will be placed on analysis of variance for hypothesis testing.

Detailed program

- Introduction to measurement
- Reliability and validity
- Principal Component Analysis
- Multiple Regression
- Mediation and moderation analysis
- Inferential statistics for hypothesis testing
- Analysis of variance (ANOVA)
- Logistic regression

Prerequisites

Basic descriptive statistics (measures of central tendency and dispersion); Basic inferential statistics; Simple linear regression and correlation; t-test.

Students who lack these prerequisites should read the first two chapters of the manual. Furthermore, these concepts will be briefly introduced in class.

Teaching methods

Lectures with practical examples and discussions of data analysis.

Assessment methods

Written final test with multiple-choice questions and open-end questions including problems. The oral exam is optional.

- *Multiple-choice questions.* The first part of the written test includes multiple-choice questions that assess particularly the understanding of the theoretical models underlying psychometric measurement and statistical models underlying data analysis techniques.

- *Open-ended questions.* The second part of the written test include problems that require to apply the acquired notions for developing research projects and for interpreting the results of data-analyses.

- *Oral exam.* The possibility of an oral exam is offered to students who consider that the result of the written exam does not reflect their real competence. The oral exam will include both the discussion of the written exam and a discussion of the topics covered in class. During the oral exam, both theoretical knowledge and practical abilities related to data-analysis will be assessed.

There will be no midterm exams.

It will be possible to obtain 2 points to add to the grade for students interested in producing a group work (5/6 individuals) to be presented in the classroom. During teh first lecture, information will be provided regarding this possibility.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

The teaching material includes lecture slides and the textbook. I will also suggest scientific papers about specific topics. The lecture slides and the papers will be made available on the university's onilne platform.

Libro di testo: Gallucci M., Leone L., Berlingeri, E. (2017). *Modelli statistici per le scienze sociali, seconda edizione*. Milano: Pearson Educational.

The text is freely available, also as an e-book, at the University library (follow the instructions at https://www.biblio.unimib.it/it).

Detailed information regarding other teaching material will be published in the course's e-learning page before the beginning of the lessons

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION