UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Social Statistics

2425-2-E4102B064

Learning objectives

The aim is to give the tools for the analysis of social phenomena. Implementation of a survey, attitude scales and the basics of social indicators.

The class provides knowledge and understanding of the management of a survey, the analysis of variables in a questionnaire and the construction of synthetic scales and indicators. At the end of the class, the students will be able to: implement a questionnaire, define an attitude scale and create the evaluation measures and choose the appropriate methods to create synthesis indicators. The class allows the student to acquire a solid basis in the use of descriptive and exploratory statistics necessary in any works and which represent an essential basis for the continuation of the university course.

Contents

Tools for social research

• Questionnaire: structure and characteristics
• Attitude scales
• Social indicators

Detailed program

First part:

- Opinion survey, data collection. Questionnaire design.

- Survey questions and response alternatives.
- Respondents and responses: Psychological and cognitive processes, phrasing
- Randomized response technique (RRT): Warner and Simmons methods
- Question order effects and response order effects.
- Attitude scales: Bogardus, Guttman, Thurstone, Likert, Osgood

Second part:

- Human Development Indexes and Gap Indicators.
- Official international and national data base available through Internet.
- Illustrative scheme of the applied research: choice of a social phenomenon, sources ; analysis, missing values analysis
- Raw data and construction of social indicators; check of the adequacy of the indicators; drafting a progress report.

Prerequisites

Statistics I

Teaching methods

Frontal and practical lectures. The first faces the theoretical aspects, the second shows , through the use of national and international Open-Data, the different steps of a research: from the acquisition of data, the cleaning of the database, construction of indicators and scales, elementary analysis of results. Software SPSS.

Teaching with lectures, tutorials and laboratory activities:

- 30 h delivered in face-to-face mode
- 12 hours of exercises on attitude scales and composite indicators
- Approx. 24 hours of laboratory activities carried out in face-to-face interactive mode

Assessment methods

Attending students: The exam consists of a partial written (concerning questionnaire and attitude scales) and one paper (concerning the part of the indicators), the oral exam is optional.

Not attending students: The exam consists of a written test (exercises and theoretical part) . the oral exam is optional.

The theoretical questions in the written test allow verifying the knowledge of the questionnaire's problems, the scales/synthetic indicators plan and implement and their main characteristics. The exercises allow verifying the ability to choose, calculate and comment indicator/ scale with simple practical problems. Furthermore, the theoretical questions and the exercises allow verifying the ability to express themselves with an appropriate technical language.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

· Vanda Zammuner (1998), Tecniche dell’intervista e del questionario, il Mulino, Bologna

· Enrica Aureli Cutillo (2002) Lezioni di statistica sociale. Fonti, strumenti e metodi.Ed. CISU

· Handbook on Constructing Composite Indicators METHODOLOGY AND USER GUIDE, OECD, European Commission, 2008 (pag. 19-33; pag. 44-49; pag. 83-88, pag. 102-104)

https://www.oecd.org/std/42495745.pdf

Teaching material made available during the lessons on e-learning

Semester

II and III cycle (annual)

Teaching language

Italian

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION