UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Measurement in Psychosocial Sciences

2425-2-E2004P040

Learning area

2. Study of the Psychological Aspects Underlying Communication.

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding

- Research methods in the psycho social field
- Research instruments: questionnaires, indirect measures,
- Reliability and validity of measurement
- Simple Statistical techniques for results testing

Applying knowledge and understanding

- How to develop a research question
- How to operationalize a psychological construct
- Construction of a measure
- Evaluation of a measure
- Use of statistics within a research project

Contents

The course aims at helping students acquire the necessary knowledge to conduct research in the psychosocial field. After a general introduction on measurement in psychology, tools for the investigation of psychosocial

constructs (mainly questionnaires and indirect measures) will be examined in detail and the methods of evaluating their psychometric qualities will be discussed.

Numerous examples of scientific research and measuring instruments will be provided. In addition, a research project will be built during the course, with the aim to answer a specific research question. We will discuss what are most appropriate statistical techniques, depending on research demand and design.

Detailed program

- Identifying the research question
- The design of the research
- Operationalizing psychological constructs: manipulation and measurement
- Measurement instruments
- Questionnaire
- Measures of implicit and explicit constructs
- Evaluating the psychometric qualities of a measure
- Reliability
- Validity
- Construction of a measure
- Analysis of results of a research project
- Basic notions and applications of simple statistical techniques for testing research questions and hypotheses

Prerequisites

Nothing specific.

Teaching methods

The course is structured into 28 lessons, approximately 2/3 of which are delivered through traditional teaching methods and 1/3 through interactive teaching. In addition to classroom lectures, part of the teaching is conducted through practical exercises during which students work in small groups on the guided construction of a research project.

Lecture handouts are made available on the course's e-learning site, so that they are accessible to non-attending students as well.

Assessment methods

The assessment consists of a written part with multiple-choice questions and open-ended questions, and an oral interview.

The written part is aimed at verifying (a) the actual acquisition of theoretical knowledge, (b) the ability to construct

and evaluate measurement tools, and (c) the ability to answer simple research questions using basic statistical techniques. There are no midterm exams.

The oral interview covers all the topics of the course. For attending students (attendance required: at least 66% of the lessons), the oral interview can be replaced by a presentation and discussion of the research project developed during the course, using slides. The oral interview can lead to an increase or decrease of up to a maximum of 2 points on the written exam score.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Detailed information on the Textbooks and reading materials will be published on the page of the e-learning website associated to the course.

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION | CLIMATE ACTION