UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Methodologies for Qualitative Social Research (blended)

2425-1-E3901N079

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding

Social reality is exposed to incessant changes, especially rapid in recent decades. Sociology is the science that aims to analyse and explain the taken-for-granted reality of social life and to show the processes by which it is changing. The general aim of the course is to provide students with skills on concepts and technical tools (knowledge) belonging to the so-called qualitative approach through which they can analyse and interpret social reality and its changes. Methodological skills will also be implemented through guided exercises. These proficiencies are essential for social workers.

Applying knowledge and understanding

The aim is to provide students with the proficiencies to orient themself in the panorama of qualitative empirical social research in order to critically and an informed way identify problems and intervention methodologies within various organizational structures.

Contents

The Course is organized on six thematic issues developed in four units:

1. introduction to social research;

2. the planning of qualitative research and the ethics of social research;

3. the carrying out of qualitative research;

4. communication, dissemination and impact on society;;

5. collaborative and participatory research;

6. gender sensitive research.

Detailed program

1? Module: introduction to social research

Common Sense vs. Scientific research

Qualitative and Quantitative research

2? Module: the planning of qualitative research and the ethics of social research

The planning of research

The phases of research

Ethics of/in research

3? Module: the carrying out of qualitative research

Choice of issue (relevance)

Literature review

Conceptualization

Selection of the unit of analysis, selection of cases, contact method, collection of data)

Data gathering techniques

Data analysis

4? Module: qualitative social research and its impact on society

Analysis of qualitative empirical material

Report writing in qualitative research

Dissemination and communication

Impact on society

Prerequisites

Basic educational skills in logic, social culture, and reasonable ability in learning, writing and communication.

Teaching methods

The course consists of 56 hours and will take place in blended elearning mode (18 hours delivered remotely and 38 in traditional face-to-face teaching mode):

- 13 3-hour lessons carried out in a face-to-face delivery mode in the initial part which is aimed at involving students in an interactive way in the subsequent part.;
- 3 3-hour problem solving exercises carried out individually (with the support of the teacher and tutors) remotely (synchronous);
- 3 3-hour exercise activities carried out in remote synchronous interactive mode.

Assessment methods

Attendance at the course includes the evaluation of the following activities:
• Three problem solving exercises (individual open-ended essay) at the end of modules 2, 3 and 4 of the course respectively. Each of them will contribute 10% of the final grade, for a total of 30% of the final grade.
• A practical activity (group essay starting from a paper in English to be discussed collectively) which will contribute 40% of the final grade.
• The remaining 30% of the grade will be awarded through the final exam. This test will be oral and will consist of the answer to an open question on the texts of program no. 1.

Evaluation criteria:

Written examination

- Relevancy of the answer towards the subject of question;

- Ability to grasp the essential elements of the proposed issue;

- Ability to present the proposed issue in a coherent and consequential manner;

- Completeness of the elements that constitute the answer;

- Spelling and syntactic accuracy.

Oral examination

- Knowledge related to the topics analyzed in the bibliography and discussed in classroom;

- Ability to expose the proposed issue in an orderly and complete manner;

- Understanding and appropriate use of specific concepts relating to complex sociological phenomena;

- Ability of a critical thinking and reflection.

Each intermediate and final exam will receive a mark:

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Program no. 1:

1. Fasanella A., Mauceri M., Nobile S. (2024), Metodologia della ricerca sociale: approcci, strategie e tecniche di indagine (Capp. 1, 2, 3, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 e 24), Milano, FrancoAngeli Open Access Platform: https://series.francoangeli.it/index.php/oa/catalog/series/inferenze
2. Decataldo A., Russo C. (2022), Metodologia e tecniche partecipative. La ricerca sociologica nel tempo della complessità, Torino, Pearson.
   Further papers and the reference website will be indicated during the teaching activities to carry out practical activities individually and in small groups, which will be evaluated.

Program no. 2:

1. Corbetta P. (2014), Metodologia e tecniche della ricerca sociale - Parte prima. I paradigmi di riferimento, Bologna, il Mulino.
2. Fasanella A., Mauceri M., Nobile S. (2024), Metodologia della ricerca sociale: approcci, strategie e tecniche di indagine (Capp. 1, 2, 3, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 e 24), Milano, FrancoAngeli Open Access Platform: https://series.francoangeli.it/index.php/oa/catalog/series/inferenze
3. Decataldo A., Russo C. (2022), Metodologia e tecniche partecipative. La ricerca sociologica nel tempo della complessità, Torino, Pearson.
   4a) Decataldo A., Ruspini E. (2014), La ricerca di genere, Roma, Carocci.
   or
   4b) Decataldo A., Russo C. (2024), Lo sguardo sociologico in Terapia Intensiva Neonatale. Una ricerca partecipativa e collaborativa per promuovere un’ecologia dei saperi, Milano, FrancoAngeli Open Access Platform: https://series.francoangeli.it/index.php/oa/catalog/book/1091

Erasmus students may ask for an alternative bibliography in English language.

Sustainable Development Goals

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