



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Metodologia della Ricerca per I Servizi e il Terzo Settore

2425-1-F8701N083

Learning objectives

The course aims to provide students with key methodological and technical tools for conducting empirical research in the field of social services and the third sector. On completion of the course, students will have acquired a sound knowledge of the principal foundations of quantitative and qualitative approaches in the social sciences. They will have acquired methodological skills to design and conduct empirical research. They will possess skills to designing survey instruments, analysing data and communicating research results. Finally, they will have how to recognise and discuss the ethical contours of research and to adopt a reflexive approach in their relationship with research subjects.

Contents

The course aims to provide students with the principle methodological and technical instruments, both quantitative and qualitative, for carrying out social research in the field of social services and the third sector. In particular, the course will address the aims of social research, research design and data collection techniques, as well as the relationship between social research, services and the needs of subjects.

Detailed program

The course aims to provide students with the methodological and technical tools to design and carry out empirical research in the social sciences, with a specific focus on social services and the third sector. The course will address the various stages of research: from the epistemological aspects of social research to research design; from quantitative and qualitative techniques of data collection tools to the analysis of qualitative data and the dissemination of research results. The ethical aspects of research, the position of the researcher in relation to their research participants, as well as the multiple opportunities for social research offered by new technologies and the

internet will also be considered. With a focus on participatory learning, students will have the opportunity to experience the use of different methodologies and to develop critical skills to evaluate the impact and quality of a research project.

Prerequisites

No requirements are needed to attend this course

Teaching methods

The 49-hour course will be structured around the following two teaching methods:

- didactic delivery (approximately 50% of the course), including lectures with the use of Power Point and the projection of audio-visual material;
- interactive teaching (approximately 50% of the course), including student discussions of readings and videos shown in class; individual and group classroom exercises; individual and group presentations on topics related to the course.

In addition, approximately 25% of the didactic delivery and interactive teaching (ca. 12 hours) will be conducted remotely, including the assignment of readings and audio-visual material, and short papers to be completed individually or in groups.

Assessment methods

Course evaluation will be by oral exam based on the course content and reading material. Students attending the course will have the opportunity to write a research project either individually or in a group on a topic of their choice. The final project will contribute to the overall assessment and will be discussed during the oral exam. In addition, attendance and participation in class discussions and activities will be assessed.

Assessment criteria: full understanding of the readings; appropriate use of terms; clarity, accuracy and completeness in the discussion of material; the ability to make connections between the various topics.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Corbetta, P. (2014). *Metodologia e tecniche della ricerca sociale*. Bologna: Il Mulino. (eBook access via UNIMIB library).

De Carlo M. (2018). *Scientific Inquiry in Social Work*. Open Social Work Education. (Open access publication downloadable here: <https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/591>)

Joubert L. & Webber M. (eds.) (2020). *The Routledge handbook of social work practice research*. London: Routledge. (eBook access via UNIMIB library).

Berger R. (2015). Now I see it, now I don't: researcher's position and reflexivity in qualitative research. *Qualitative Research*, 15(2), 219-234. (Online access via UNIMIB library)

Further material on relevant topics will be made available by the course tutor.

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION | GENDER EQUALITY | REDUCED INEQUALITIES
