UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Social Statistics

2526-2-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
- the construction of synthetic scales and indicators.

By the end of the course, the students will be able to:

- implement a questionnaire, define an attitude scale and create the evaluation measures, and choose and interpret the appropriate methods to create synthesis indicators (*Applying knowledge and understanding; making judgements*)
- Communicate and present the results of the analysis in a report (*Communication skills*).

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 (*Learning skills*).

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