



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Methodologies for Quantitative Social Research (blended)

2526-1-E3902N008

Learning objectives

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

1. Understand the ontological, epistemological, and methodological foundations of quantitative social research (Descriptor 1);
2. Apply tools for the collection and analysis of quantitative data (Descriptor 2);
3. Interpret empirical data with critical thinking and independent judgment (Descriptor 3);
4. Communicate research findings clearly and appropriately, including in English (Descriptor 4);
5. Further develop the course content independently for use in professional and academic contexts (Descriptor 5).

Contents

The course is structured around 5 main modules:

1. Social research: the empiricist and interpretivist paradigms; qualitative and quantitative research
2. Research design: selecting a topic, reviewing the literature, defining objectives and research questions, ethics
3. Data collection: concepts and variables; sampling; survey research; official statistical sources and Demo-Istat

4. Data analysis: building the data matrix; univariate and bivariate analysis

5. Presentation of results: drafting a dissemination plan and the research report

Detailed program

1. The basics of social research

1.1 Positivism and interpretativism

1.2 Qualitative and quantitative research

2. Research design

2.1 The choice of the topic, the literature review, research aim and questions

2.2 Research design

2.3 Ethics

2.4 Data collection and analysis

2.5 Dissemination

3. Data collection

3.1 From theories to variables

3.2 Sampling

3.3 Sample surveys: data collection and analysis

3.4 Official statistics: ISTAT and DEMO-ISTAT

4. Data analysis

4.1 Data matrix

4.2 Monovariate and bivariate analysis

5. Results

5.1. Dissemination of research findings

5.2 The research report

Prerequisites

Working knowledge of Excel and Word

Teaching methods

The course in Quantitative Research Methodology is delivered in a blended format, comprising a total of 56 teaching hours, structured as follows:

Lecture-based teaching (36 hours): 18 in-person lectures of 2 hours each;

Interactive teaching (20 hours): 20 asynchronous hours.

The lecture-based component focuses on the transmission of theoretical and methodological concepts related to quantitative research. The interactive component includes both individual and group activities, such as preparing and delivering presentations, writing a short literature review, designing and administering questionnaires, and analysing secondary data. These activities are designed to foster both practical and reflective skills, promoting active learning.

Assessment methods

Erasmus students: Written examination constituted of 5 open-ended questions.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

An English programme is available upon request.

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION
