UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Methodologies for Quantitative Social Research

2627-1-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

Basic knowledge of Microsoft Excel and Word. Ability to understand texts in English.

Teaching methods

The Quantitative Research Methods course is a** blended-learning course** consisting of 56 hours of teaching activities, organised as follows:

Teaching delivery activities (36 hours): 18 face-to-face lectures of 2 hours each;
Interactive teaching activities (20 hours): 20 hours of remote asynchronous activities carried out individually or in small groups.

Teaching delivery activities are aimed at providing students with the theoretical and methodological foundations of quantitative research.

Interactive teaching activities include individual and group tasks such as preparing and delivering presentations, writing a short literature review, designing and administering questionnaires, and analysing secondary data. These activities are intended to develop practical and reflective skills while promoting active learning.

Assessment methods

For Erasmus students, the assessment consists of a written examination made up of 5 open-ended questions.

The examination is designed to assess students' knowledge and understanding of the main course contents, their ability to apply quantitative research concepts and techniques to concrete research situations, and their ability to provide clear and well-argued responses. Assessment is based on the accuracy and completeness of answers, the ability to analyse and apply methodological concepts, clarity of expression, and the appropriate use of disciplinary terminology.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

An English programme is available upon request.

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION