

FACULTY	Social Sciences		
DEPARTMENT	Sociology		
LEVEL OF STUDY	Inter-departmental Postgraduate Program "Employment, Work Organisation and Industrial Relations"		
COURSE CODE		SEMESTER OF STUDY	A' Winter
COURSE TITLE	Research Methodology in the Social Sciences I		
INDEPENDENT TEACHING ACTIVITIES		WEEKLY TEACHING HOURS	CREDITS
Theory		3	6
TOTAL		3	
COURSE TYPE	Compulsory		
PREREQUISITE COURSES:	No		
LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION AND EXAMINATIONS:	Greek		
THE COURSE IS OFFERED TO ERASMUS STUDENTS	No		
COURSE WEBSITE (URL)			

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students are expected to:

Knowledge

- To recognize the social phenomena as particular objects of scientific research that require appropriate ways of investigation.
- To learn the logic and related procedures of empirical social research.
- To understand and define the ontological and epistemological grounds of social research and the resulting dilemmas of the researcher.
- To distinguish between quantitative and qualitative methodological approaches and become familiar with the discussion on mixed or combined methodological approaches.
- To describe the basic stages of research designs in quantitative and qualitative studies and to be able to formulate a research plan adopting the one approach or the other.
- To clearly formulate a research problem and specify the research purpose and questions (or hypotheses) of a research proposal.
- To learn and discuss quality criteria in social research and their differences in quantitative and qualitative methodological approaches.
- To identify and discuss important issues related to research ethics and to the political dimension of social research.
- To understand and apply the dimension of "intersectionality" in social research.
- To become familiar with the principles of ethnographic research.
- To become familiar with and be able to apply methods of analyzing social data.
- To become familiar with issues related to the interconnection of research questions/hypotheses with the design of specific quantitative research projects.
- To identify the main characteristics and stages of conducting sample surveys.
- To become familiar with the basic principles of designing and constructing social survey questionnaires.

Skills

- To acquire skills in designing and implementing research projects.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To acquire skills and abilities in applying methods and tools for collecting and analyzing social data. • To acquire skills in applying the principles and stages of thematic and narrative analysis of qualitative data. • To acquire skills in utilizing the tools of empirically based theory (theoretical sampling, coding, theoretical saturation, constant comparison) for the analysis of qualitative data. • To acquire skills in applying the evaluation criteria (quality control criteria) of a qualitative research, the ways of their utilization and their difference from those used in quantitative research. • To acquire skills in clarifying the research question and selecting the appropriate quantitative research design. • To acquire basic skills in designing survey questionnaires.
General Abilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Independent work</i> • <i>Teamwork</i> • <i>Project planning and management</i> • <i>Respect for diversity and multiculturalism</i> • <i>Criticism and self-criticism</i> • <i>Promotion of free, creative and inductive thinking</i>

COURSE CONTENT

This course aims to familiarize students with the systematic and methodical investigation of social phenomena. By emphasizing the specificity of social phenomena as objects of research, it aims to highlight the appropriate ways of examining them, as they have been applied in the history of social research. The course will discuss issues such as: what is scientific research, how is it distinguished from other ways of viewing the social world, how empirical research is intertwined with social theory and existing knowledge, why we talk about methodological pluralism in the social sciences, what are the basic research approaches and on which ontological and epistemological assumptions are based, what are the methodological implications of choosing one of the methodological approaches. Particular emphasis will also be placed on how to formulate research objectives, questions and hypotheses among different types of social research, on designing research processes and their basic stages, (collection/production, organization and classification of data, production of convincing interpretations, documentation of research results) on presenting research results and writing a scientific report. Finally, the course will discuss the ethical and political dimensions of social research as well as will highlight issues related to the ethics of research practice. The course will be enriched with lectures on specific issues of social research.

The aim of the course is to familiarize students with the methods of systematic analysis of research problems in the social sciences in general and in the study of employment/labor in particular. The course will discuss the nature and process of social research, the social research strategies providing equal emphasis on quantitative and qualitative research, their characteristics, advantages and disadvantages. During the course will be analyzed the concept of the research project, the planning process of the research project and the formulation of research questions. Particular emphasis will be placed on ethical and policy issues in social research, as well as on the theoretical and technical assumptions underlying different methodological approaches that influence data composition and interpretation of results.

Indicative course structure:

1st Meeting

- (a) Getting to know each other
- (b) Presentation of the issues and topics of the course
- (c) Assign topics of essays to students
- (d) Introduction to the logic of empirical social research

2nd Meeting

Strategies for the epistemological foundation of social research

3rd Meeting

The different research approaches

- (a) Quantitative and qualitative research approach
- (b) Ways of associating theory and research (inductive, deductive and abductive reasoning).

4th Meeting

The qualitative approach of empirical social research

- (a) The characteristics of qualitative research
- (b) The research design based on the principles of qualitative approach
- (c) The formulation of research purpose and research questions

5th Meeting

Methods of producing qualitative data

- (a) The types of interview
- (b) Focus groups
- (c) The evidence

6th Meeting

Ethnographic research

- (a) Basic principles of ethnographic research
- (b) Access to the field, recordings and analysis of ethnographic material

7th Meeting

Processing and analyzing quality data

- (a) General principles and dilemmas of qualitative analysis
- (b) The thematic analysis
- (c) The use of software programs during the process of qualitative data analysis

8th Meeting

Quantitative research designs

- (a) The interconnection of research questions and research designs
- (b) Types of research designs based on the purpose and the spatio-temporal dimension
- (c) The stages of conducting quantitative research

9th Meeting

Key features of sample surveys

- (a) Interconnection of research questions and survey techniques
- (b) The sampling techniques
- (c) The techniques of completing/administrating questionnaires

10th Meeting

Basic principles of questionnaire design I

- (a) Types and categories of questions
- (b) General practices of designing questions

11th Meeting

Basic principles of questionnaire design II

- (a) Practices of designing non-sensitive/non-threatening and sensitive/threatening questions
- (c) Practices of designing attitude questions and scales

12th Meeting

Organizing and formatting the questionnaires

- (a) Issues of questionnaire organisation

(b) Issues of questionnaire formatting in self-administered techniques

13th Meeting

(a) Presentation of students' assignments

(b) Evaluation of the course's activities during the semester

TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS – ASSESSMENT

TEACHING METHOD	Face to face												
USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of video projector and slideshow • Video • Presentation of assignments with Power Point program • Support of the learning process through the E-Learn platform 												
TEACHING ORGANIZATION	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Activity</th><th>Semester's Work Load</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Lectures</td><td>60</td></tr> <tr> <td>Assignment</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr> <td>Independent study</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr> <td>Study and analysis of literature</td><td>40</td></tr> <tr> <td>Total work load</td><td>150</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Activity	Semester's Work Load	Lectures	60	Assignment	30	Independent study	20	Study and analysis of literature	40	Total work load	150
Activity	Semester's Work Load												
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STUDENT EVALUATION	<p>The final evaluation/grade of students derives from:</p> <p>A. The evaluation of the students' participation (formal and substantive) during the weekly meetings.</p> <p>The presence of students in the weekly meetings of the course is considered necessary and mandatory.</p> <p>B. From the assignment</p>												

RECOMMENDED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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