



MODULE - 7

Research Methods in the Social Science

Number of Credits: 6 ECTs

Teaching Modality & Language: Face to Face, will be delivered in English

Description:

This course provides students with an introduction to research and research methodologies in the social sciences. Students will learn how scholars, policymakers and activists design and conduct research studies, and how data can be analyzed and interpreted. The course is intended to provide students with a foundation for both understanding research and designing and conducting research in the remainder of the student's graduate program. Among the foci of the course are qualitative and quantitative research methods, including digital content analysis, interviewing, and survey research. Students will also learn the rudiments of using statistical software for analyzing survey responses.

Learning Outcomes:

- Students will gain a profound understanding of key methodologies in the social sciences and their appropriate use, including the main components of a research study and the ability to recognize trends in data
- Students will be able to develop appropriate research tools and employ a combination of techniques that are relevant to achieve the research objective and address research questions.

Brief Description of the course:

1. Description of the scientific method
2. Understanding of research in social sciences and the relationship of research with social sciences
3. Conducting a critical review of the literature
4. Identifying an appropriate research problem
5. Developing research questions and /or hypotheses
6. Evaluating the use of various research approaches (including content analysis, survey and field research, quantitative and qualitative analysis, case studies, etc.)
7. Designing a research study using appropriate research methods
8. Accurately analyzing research data



9. Presenting research results in accurate and easily understandable visual and written formats
10. Recognizing and accurately applying professional standards for protecting human subjects in research

Teaching approach:

Lecture/seminar

The theoretical part of the course consists of both seminars and lectures. Discussions between course attendants and lecturers are essential for this part, therefore participation is encouraged either during or after the lecture to share perspectives and address questions or comments.

Tutorial

Two kinds of tutorials: (1) Peer-to-peer mentoring, and (2) tutorial with a tutor, where students will reflect on learnings from the course, share questions and understanding, and explore further interests.

Recommended Textbook

- Guthrie, G. (2010). *Basic research methods: An entry to social science research*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Punch, K. (2014). *Introduction to social research: Quantitative and qualitative approaches* (3rd ed.). Los Angeles: Sage.
- Tan, W. (2018). *Research methods: A practical guide for students and researchers*. London: World Scientific Publishing.

Other materials

- American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). Washington, DC: APA.
- Denzin, N., & Lincoln, Y. (Eds.). (2018). *The Sage handbook of qualitative research* (5th ed.). Los Angeles: Sage.
- Manfra, M., & Bolick, C. (Eds.). (2017). *The Wiley handbook of social studies research*. Malden, MA: Wiley

Learning Methodology:

Methodology	Dedicated Hours
Lectures 12 sessions (@4 hours)	48
Tutoring	6



UCAM

UNIVERSIDAD CATÓLICA
DE MURCIA

MODULE 7

MASTER DEGREE IN TOLERANCE STUDIES AND GLOBAL PEACE



Assessment	6
Independent study	20
Practical exercise	50
Reading and Bibliography Search	20
TOTAL	150

Course Assessment:

Practices and /or seminars will be evaluated through different assessment methods (exercise, completion and presentation of assignments, practical clases, etc.) that reflect the practical content covered.

The course assessment is integrated of three aspects:

- *Course participation (10%)*
- *Written Exam (50%)*
- *Coursework (40%)* – designing and carrying out a research Project

In general, the grading system established in R.D. 1125/2003 of September 5th will be followed, which is as follows:

- 0 – 4,9: Fail (SS)
- 5,0 – 6,9: Pass (AP)
- 7,0 – 8,9: Good (Notable)
- 9,0 – 10: Outstanding (SB)

The mention of “Honors” may be granted to students who have obtained a grade equal or higher than 9.0. The number of honors awarded cannot exceed 5% of the students enrolled in a subject in the corresponding academic year, unless the number of enrolled students is less than 20, in which case only one honor may be granted.

Teaching Staff

- Prof. Dr. Pablo S Blesa

Schedule:

12 lecture sessions (from 16h00 to 20h00) would be delivered end of February to end of April.