

Syllabus

Course Description

Course Title	Qualitative Methods and Methodologies in Social Research
Course Code	51120
Course Title Additional	
Scientific-Disciplinary Sector	GSPS-06/A
Language	German
Degree Course	Bachelor in Social Work
Other Degree Courses (Loaned)	
Lecturers	Mag.phil. MA. MSc. PhD Petra Maria Wlasak, PetraMaria.Wlasak@unibz.it https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/education/academic-staff/person/50568
Teaching Assistant	
Semester	First semester
Course Year/s	1
CP	6
Teaching Hours	36
Lab Hours	0
Individual Study Hours	114
Planned Office Hours	18
Contents Summary	In this course, we will take an introductory look at the basics of qualitative research and carry out a qualitative research project as group work. - Theories of qualitative research - Methods and methodologies of data collection
Course Topics	Following an introduction to the epistemological foundations of qualitative social research, we will examine the principles of professional research practice with regard to quality assurance. In particular, we will discuss the importance of transparency,

	traceability, honesty and diligence in the research process. Building on this, we will address issues of research ethics, such as informed consent and data protection considerations. As part of this, there will also be a focus on reflecting on research involving vulnerable groups, as well as critically examining power and role dynamics within the research process. Using examples from academic research practice, the qualitative research process is then traced step by step. The course covers the development of research questions and research designs, the planning and implementation of sampling processes, and various forms of data collection, with a particular focus on qualitative interviews. In addition, methods of data preservation and data preparation – including the transcription of interviews – as well as key methods of qualitative data analysis, in particular qualitative content analysis and grounded theory, are outlined. Alongside the course modules, students develop their own exemplary research project. They formulate a research question and a research design, devise a corresponding interview guide and conduct exemplary qualitative interviews. The results of the project are presented as part of the oral examination. Furthermore, students reflect on and discuss their experiences of carrying out the research project against the background of the theoretical and methodological foundations covered in the course.
Keywords	Qualitative social research, research ethics, conducting qualitative interviews, research project
Recommended Prerequisites	No specific prior knowledge is required to take part in this course. Students are expected to have an interest in academic issues, a curiosity about social phenomena, and a willingness to engage with research processes and to reflect critically on them.
Propaedeutic Courses	
Teaching Format	Lectures, project and team work, reading of literature and discussion
Mandatory Attendance	In accordance with the regulation
Specific Educational Objectives and Learning Outcomes	- Basic knowledge of qualitative research - Basic knowledge of qualitative data collection - Development and realisation of a student research project - teamwork

	- Presentation of research results - The student knows the essential characteristics of qualitative research - The student is able to complete an introductory task in qualitative research in the form of a student research project.
Specific Educational Objectives and Learning Outcomes (additional info.)	Knowledge and Understanding Students will be able to: - describe fundamental concepts and the epistemological foundations of qualitative social research; - explain the quality criteria for qualitative research, as well as requirements relating to research ethics and data protection Applying Knowledge and Understanding Students will be able to: - develop a qualitative research question and plan a simple research design; - prepare, conduct and document qualitative interviews; - analyse qualitative data using selected methods. Making Judgements Students will be able to: - assess the selection of qualitative methods for different research questions and critically examine their implementation; - reflect on ethical and quality-related aspects of qualitative research processes. Communication Skills Students will be able to: - present and justify research questions, methodological decisions and research findings in a clear and comprehensible manner. Learning Skills Students will be able to: - design and carry out a simple research project independently and collaboratively; - critically reflect on their own experiences within the research

	process.
Assessment	Oral examination consisting of two parts: 1. The respective research teams present their research project, including the results. 2. Following the presentation, each team member is asked an oral reflective question about the research process.
Evaluation Criteria	Assessment criteria: 1. Presentation of the research project (70% of the mark): - Accuracy of content and form in the presentation; - Structure and organisation of the research design and the interview guide; - Conduct of the interview; - Clarity of expression; - Teamwork skills. 2. Individual oral reflection on the research process: (30% of the mark) - Ability to present arguments; - Ability to analyse topics critically; - Ability to engage in self-reflection;
Required Readings	Rosenthal, Gabriele (2011): Interpretative Sozialforschung. Weinheim: Juventa Strübing, Jörg (2018): Qualitative Sozialforschung. Eine komprimierte Einführung. Berlin: DeGruyter Further literature will be announced depending on the research projects in the course.
Supplementary Readings	Flick, Uwe (2016): Qualitative Sozialforschung. Eine Einführung. Hamburg: Rowohlt Taschenbuch Verlag Flick, Uwe/ Kardorff, Ernst von/ Steinke, Ines (Hg.) (2000): Qualitative Forschung. Ein Handbuch. Hamburg: rowohlt's enzyklopädie Lucchini, Mario (2018): Metodologie della ricerca sociale. Milano: Pearson Rosenthal, Gabriele (2018): Interpretive Social Research. An Introduction. Universitätsverlag Göttingen. (free download: https://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/123456789)

	Göttingen university press) Shaw, Ivan/ Briar-Lawson, Katharine/ Orme, Joan und Roy Ruckdeschel (Ed.) (2013): The Sage Handbook of Social Work Research. London: Sage
Further Information	
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Reduced inequalities, Quality education