Syllabus

Course Description

Course Title	Research Design and Methodologies
Course Code	53147
Course Title Additional	
Scientific-Disciplinary Sector	NN
Language	Italian; English; German
Degree Course	Master in Social Work and Social Policy
Other Degree Courses (Loaned)	
Lecturers	dr. Evan Tedeschi, Evan.Tedeschi@unibz.it https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/education/academic-staff/person/37256 Prof. Dr. Ulrike Elfriede Loch, Ulrike.Loch@unibz.it https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/education/academic-staff/person/38689 Dr. Enzo Loner, Enzo.Loner@unibz.it https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/education/academic-staff/person/45151 dr. Carlo Alessandro Nardi, CarloAlessandro.Nardi@unibz.it https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/education/academic-staff/person/39416
Teaching Assistant	
Semester	First semester
Course Year/s	1
CP	12
Teaching Hours	60
Lab Hours	20
Individual Study Hours	220

Planned Office Hours	36
Contents Summary	Introduction to qualitative and quantitative methods for analyzing social phenomena. Focus on research design, data collection, analysis, and ethical reflection in social work.
Course Topics	The module provides a comprehensive introduction to qualitative and quantitative research methods, including interview techniques, surveys and statistical analysis. Students learn to develop research designs, plan and conduct their own research projects and critically interpret data. Practical laboratory exercises encourage the application of interpretative methods and multivariate statistical procedures. Particular attention is paid to reflecting on ethical challenges, the use of digital tools and the interpretation of social inequalities.
Keywords	Qualitative and quantitative social research, theoretical foundation, research design, and ethical issues.
Recommended Prerequisites	Basic knowledge of empirical research
Propaedeutic Courses	
Teaching Format	Lecture, group work, text work, empirical work
Mandatory Attendance	In accordance with the regulation
Specific Educational Objectives and Learning Outcomes	- Master qualitative data collection and analysis methods - Develop critical reflection on the role of the researcher - Recognize and address ethical challenges in research - Analyze qualitative data using appropriate methods - Design independent research frameworks for field studies - Evaluate ethical implications of qualitative research - Reflect critically on one's own position in the research process - Apply qualitative data collection methods practically - Reflect on ethical issues in research - Develop methodological skills for field research - Conduct qualitative data collection and analysis - Evaluate ethical aspects in research processes - Develop participatory research approaches - Reflect on own role as researcher - Apply quantitative techniques to analyze social inequalities - Correctly interpret statistical data - Evaluate data quality and reliability

	- Apply statistical methods to complex social issues - Analyze quantitative data on social inequalities - Evaluate data validity and reliability - Develop own statistical analyses - Apply statistical software - Apply quantitative methods in social research - Interpret statistical results - Develop own research designs - Critically evaluate data sources and analyses - Analyze quantitative data using statistical software - Evaluate the validity and reliability of results - Develop independent research models - Interpret complex statistical analyses
Specific Educational Objectives and Learning Outcomes (additional info.)	
Assessment	Written and oral examination
Evaluation Criteria	- Correctness of content and form; - Clarity of expression; - Argumentation skills; - Ability to critically analyse topics; - Ability to self-reflect.
Required Readings	Iezzi, D. F. (2009). *Statistica per le scienze sociali*. Carocci (Chapters 1–6 and 11). Michel, J. (2026). *What is Hermeneutics?* Springer. Pelosi, M. K., Sandifer, T. M., Cerchiello, P., & Giudici, P. (2009). *Introduzione alla statistica* (2nd ed., Chapters 5, 7, and 8). McGraw-Hill. Rosenthal, G. (2011). Interpretative Sozialforschung. Juventa Further reading will be announced during the course

Supplementary Readings	
Further Information	
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Reduced inequalities, Quality education

Course Module

Course Constituent Title	Qualitative Social research
Course Code	53147A
Scientific-Disciplinary Sector	GSPS-06/A
Language	German
Lecturers	Prof. Dr. Ulrike Elfriede Loch, Ulrike.Loch@unibz.it https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/education/academic-staff/person/38689
Teaching Assistant	
Semester	First semester
CP	5
Responsible Lecturer	
Teaching Hours	30
Lab Hours	0
Individual Study Hours	95
Planned Office Hours	15
Contents Summary	Introduction to qualitative research methods in social work: data collection, analysis, and ethical reflection. Focus on fieldwork and participatory approaches.
Course Topics	The course focuses on methods and methodologies of interpretive social research. Students develop their own research project and present the results in the form of a poster presentation
Teaching Format	Lecture, group and project work, text work, empirical work and presentation
Required Readings	Rosenthal, G. (2011). Interpretative Sozialforschung. Juventa Schaeffer, D. & Müller-Mundt, G. (Hg.) (2002): Qualitative Gesundheits- und Pflegeforschung. Hans Huber

	In addition, lecture notes will be provided during the course.
Supplementary Readings	Bohnsack, R., Geimer, A. & Meuser, M. (Hg.) (2018): Hauptbegriffe Qualitativer Forschung. Barbara Budrich Flick, U. (2016). Qualitative Sozialforschung. Eine Einführung. Rowohlt Taschenbuch Verlag Flick, U., Kardorff, E. v., & Steinke, I. (Hg.) (2000). Qualitative Forschung. Ein Handbuch. Rowohlts Enzyklopädie Glaser, B. G., & Strauss, A. L. (2008). The discovery of grounded theory strategies for qualitative research (3. pb. pr.). Transaction Publ. Jahoda, M., Lazarsfeld, P., & Zeisel, H. (1933/1980). Die Arbeitslosen von Marienthal. Suhrkamp Lienhart, Ch. (2024). Vom Heim nach Hause: Herstellungsleistungen von Familie bei Rückkehrprozessen aus stationären Erziehungshilfen. Barbara Budrich Loch, U. (2016). Kinderschutz mit psychisch erkrankten Eltern. Ethnografie im Jugendamt. Beltz Przyborski, A. & Wohlrab-Sahr, M. (2009): Qualitative Sozialforschung. Ein Arbeitsbuch. Oldenbourg Rosenthal, G. (2018): Interpretive Social Research. An Introduction. Universitätsverlag Göttingen. (free download: Göttingen University Press) Seale, G., Gobo, J.F., Gubrium, & D. Silverman (Eds.) (2007): Qualitative Research Practice. Sage Shaw, I., Briar-Lawson, K., Orme, J., & Ruckdeschel, R. (Eds.) (2013). The Sage Handbook of Social Work Research. Sage Strauss A., & Corbin J. (1990). Basics of Qualitative Research. Grounded Theory Procedures and Techniques, Sage Strübing, J. (2018): Qualitative Sozialforschung. Eine komprimierte Einführung. DeGruyter Further reading will be announced during the course

Course Constituent Title	Qualitative Methods of Social Research (lab.)
Course Code	53147B
Scientific-Disciplinary Sector	GSPS-06/A
Language	Italian
Lecturers	dr. Carlo Alessandro Nardi, CarloAlessandro.Nardi@unibz.it https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/education/academic-staff/person/39416
Teaching Assistant	
Semester	First semester
CP	1
Responsible Lecturer	
Teaching Hours	0
Lab Hours	10
Individual Study Hours	15
Planned Office Hours	3
Contents Summary	Introduction to qualitative methods focusing on practical application, data collection, and ethical reflection in social work.
Course Topics	Practical exercises on interviewing, participant observation, and data analysis. Reflection on ethical challenges and participatory approaches. Development of field methodological skills.
Teaching Format	The course adopts a practical and participative approach. Group work, workshop activities, discussion and critical reflection are foreseen. Active participation is an essential part of the training course.
Required Readings	Michel, J. (2026). *What is Hermeneutics?* Springer.
Supplementary Readings	Dibley, L., Dickerson, S., Duffy, M., & Vandermause, R. (2020). *Doing Hermeneutic Phenomenological Research: A Practical Guide*. SAGE. Rosenthal, G. (2018). *Interpretive Social Research: An Introduction*. Göttingen University Press.

	Taherdoost, H. (2026). *Navigating Qualitative Research: A Comprehensive Guide to Methods and Practices*. Routledge. Additional in-depth materials will be indicated by the lecturer in relation to the needs arising during the workshop.

Course Module

Course Constituent Title	Quantitative Analysis of Social Inequalities
Course Code	53147C
Scientific-Disciplinary Sector	STAT-03/B
Language	Italian
Lecturers	dr. Evan Tedeschi, Evan.Tedeschi@unibz.it https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/education/academic-staff/person/37256
Teaching Assistant	
Semester	First semester
CP	5
Responsible Lecturer	
Teaching Hours	30
Lab Hours	0
Individual Study Hours	95
Planned Office Hours	15
Contents Summary	Introduction to quantitative analysis methods for social inequalities: statistical techniques, data interpretation, and applications in social research.
Course Topics	The course, structured in two parts, will cover the following topics: Part One: DESIGNING A STATISTICAL SURVEY - Nature and origin of sample surveys. - The main stages of a sample survey. - Key measurement tools in social research: interviews and questionnaires. - Questionnaire design and administration techniques

	- Sampling methods. Part Two: DATA ANALYSIS - Probability calculation: introductory concepts. - Binomial and Normal distributions. - Statistical inference: confidence intervals. - Statistical inference: hypothesis testing.
Teaching Format	The lecture takes place in remote mode.
Required Readings	M.K. Pelosi, T.M. Sandifer, P. Cerchiello, P. Giudici *Introduzione alla statistica*, McGraw Hill, 2009 second edition (chapters 5, 7, 8). Lecture notes prepared by the teacher will also be provided.
Supplementary Readings	D. F. Iezzi *Statistica per le scienze sociali*, Carrocci 2009 (capp. 1-6 e 11).

Course Module

Course Constituent Title	Quantitative Methods in social research (lab.)
Course Code	53147D
Scientific-Disciplinary Sector	STAT-03/B
Language	English
Lecturers	Dr. Enzo Loner, Enzo.Loner@unibz.it https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/education/academic-staff/person/45151
Teaching Assistant	
Semester	First semester
CP	1
Responsible Lecturer	
Teaching Hours	0
Lab Hours	10
Individual Study Hours	15

Planned Office Hours	3
Contents Summary	Introduction to quantitative research methods in social research: data collection, statistical analysis, modeling, and interpretation. Focus on practical application with software tools.
Course Topics	In-depth study of descriptive and inferential statistics. From data management to hypothesis formulation and testing. Use of statistical software.
Teaching Format	Classroom lectures, data analysis and class discussions. Since the lectures will be based on the analysis of real data, students will use their own laptops with SPSS installed, or they will need to reserve a laptop from the library on the day of the lecture. Active participation is an essential part of the course.
Required Readings	As this is a practical workshop, the material will be provided to students directly during the lesson and published on the course's online page
Supplementary Readings	