
Testi del Syllabus

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|-------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Resp. Did. | DE SIO LORENZO | Matricola: 350943 |
| Anno offerta: | 2015/2016 | |
| Insegnamento: | T022 - METHODS OF SOCIAL RESEARCH | |
| Corso di studio: | L22PS - SCIENZE POLITICHE | |
| Anno regolamento: | 2014 | |
| CFU: | 8 | |
| Settore: | SPS/07 | |
| Tipo Attività: | B - Caratterizzante | |
| Anno corso: | 2 | |
| Periodo: | I Semestre | |



Testi in inglese

Tipo testo

Testo

Obiettivi Formativi Del Corso / Course Formative Objectives

The course aims at making students familiar with the key problems, tools and techniques of social research, in order to enable them to structure and conduct basic research projects. Also, an additional key goal is to allow students to competently and critically read, understand and contextualize the results of empirical research in the social sciences.

Prerequisiti / Prerequisites

Sociology. Basic statistical tools.

Contenuti Del Corso / Course Contents

The course examines the different stages of the lifecycle of a typical social research, with a specific emphasis on the quantitative analysis of individual-level data. After the initial discussion of what is social research, along with different research approaches, the course examines the fundamental topic of research design, along with the formulation, based on theory, of empirically testable hypotheses. The problem of the operationalization of theoretical concepts is then discussed, allowing the presentation of different types of variables, as well as the role of indicators for measuring concepts. A focus is then dedicated to the study of individuals: sampling issues; the use of the structured questionnaire; different types of questions and scales (students are then confronted with the development of a questionnaire). Other types of data are then discussed, along with qualitative research methods and techniques. Finally, an introduction to quantitative data analysis is presented, covering univariate, bivariate and multivariate analysis.

Programma Esteso E Materiale Didattico Di Riferimento: Settimana 1, Lezione 1 / Extended Program And Reference Reading Material: Week 1, Lesson 1

Introduction.

What is social research? Stages of a research. Post-positivist and interpretivist approaches.

Tipo testo

**Programma Esteso E
Materiale Didattico Di
Riferimento:
Settimana 2, Lezione
1 / Extended Program
And Reference
Reading Material:
Week 2, Lesson 1**

**Programma Esteso E
Materiale Didattico Di
Riferimento:
Settimana 3, Lezione
1 / Extended Program
And Reference
Reading Material:
Week 3, Lesson 1**

**Programma Esteso E
Materiale Didattico Di
Riferimento:
Settimana 4, Lezione
1 / Extended Program
And Reference
Reading Material:
Week 4, Lesson 1**

**Programma Esteso E
Materiale Didattico Di
Riferimento:
Settimana 5, Lezione
1 / Extended Program
And Reference
Reading Material:
Week 5, Lesson 1**

**Programma Esteso E
Materiale Didattico Di
Riferimento:
Settimana 6, Lezione
1 / Extended Program
And Reference
Reading Material:
Week 6, Lesson 1**

**Programma Esteso E
Materiale Didattico Di
Riferimento:
Settimana 7, Lezione
1 / Extended Program
And Reference
Reading Material:
Week 7, Lesson 1**

**Programma Esteso E
Materiale Didattico Di
Riferimento:
Settimana 8, Lezione**

Testo

Research design.

Varieties of research designs. From theory to hypotheses.

The construction of a quantitative research.

Concepts and measurement. Properties and variables. Types of variables. Operationalization. Indicators. Indices.

Studying individuals.

Populations and samples. Sampling. Structured interviews. Different interview modes.

The structured questionnaire.

Open and closed questions. Different types of questions. Scales and scaling theory. (Students - in groups - start developing a questionnaire).

Studying documents and official data.

Content analysis. Content coding. Secondary analysis. Official statistics. Data sources.

The construction of a qualitative research.

Goals of qualitative research. Criteria for evaluation. Sampling issues. Ethnography and participant observation. (Deadline for turning in questionnaires).

(Correction and discussion of students' questionnaires).

Tipo testo

**1 / Extended Program
And Reference
Reading Material:
Week 8, Lesson 1**

**Programma Esteso E
Materiale Didattico Di
Riferimento:
Settimana 9, Lezione
1 / Extended Program
And Reference
Reading Material:
Week 9, Lesson 1**

**Programma Esteso E
Materiale Didattico Di
Riferimento:
Settimana 10, Lezione
1 / Extended Program
And Reference
Reading Material:
Week 10, Lesson 1**

**Programma Esteso E
Materiale Didattico Di
Riferimento:
Settimana 11, Lezione
1 / Extended Program
And Reference
Reading Material:
Week 11, Lesson 1**

**Programma Esteso E
Materiale Didattico Di
Riferimento:
Settimana 12, Lezione
1 / Extended Program
And Reference
Reading Material:
Week 12, Lesson 1**

**Testi Di Riferimento /
Reference Books**

**Metodologie
Didattiche / Teaching
Method**

**Modalita' Di Verifica
Dell'apprendimento /
Assessment Method**

**Criteri Per
L'assegnazione
Dell'elaborato Finale /
Criteria For Deciding
On Subject Of Final
Paper**

Testo

Qualitative research techniques.

The qualitative interview. Focus groups. Document analysis.

Quantitative data analysis I.

Univariate analysis. Frequency distributions. Charts. Summary measures. Lab exercise.

Quantitative data analysis II.

Relationships between variables. Contingency tables. Scatterplots. Introduction to linear regression. Lab exercise.

Quantitative data analysis III.

Multiple regression. Statistical significance. Interpreting regression results. Lab exercise.

Corbetta, P., Social Research: Theory, Methods and Techniques, London, Sage, 2003.

Additional materials distributed by the instructor during the course.

Class teaching; questionnaire development exercises; data analysis exercises.

Final written exam.

28/30 grade.