COMILLAS
UNIVERSIDAD PONTIFICIA
CIHS

COURSE SYLLABUS

Course: **Research Methods**

COURSE DATA

Degree	Diploma in Humanities and Global Challenges
Academic Year	2025-26
Credits	6
Course type	Elective
Departament	Departamento de Psicología
Language of instruction	English
Name and email of instructor	Sergio Díaz González Eva Bajo Marcos **ebajo@comillas.edu**

SHORT DESCRIPTION

This course offers an introduction to scientific knowledge and research in the context of social and health sciences. It covers key concepts in research methods and designs, as well as in data collection and analysis. The course is designed to help students build the skills needed to understand, design, and evaluate research studies with confidence.

CONTENTS AND STRUCTURE

TOPIC 1: THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD
TOPIC 2: QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH
TOPIC 3: QUALITATIVE RESEARCH
TOPIC 4: MIXED METHODS

METHODOLOGY

Lectures will be delivered using PowerPoint presentations and will focus on discussing the basic concepts underlying research methods and designs with various examples.

Additionally, students will work in small groups to complete assignments, quizzes and lab reports to consolidate knowledge.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Assessment type	Assessment criteria	Percentage
FINAL EXAM: A minimum grade of 5/10 is required to pass the exam **STUDENTS NEED TO PASS THE EXAM IN ORDER TO PASS THE COURSE**	- Understanding of concepts. - Application of concepts and techniques. - Interpretation of information.	**60%**
GROUP WORK: students will work in small groups to read and evaluate scientific papers. **CLASS ASSIGNMENTS**: students will complete class assignments such as essays, paper reviews and lab reports	- Understanding of concepts. - Application of concepts and techniques. - Interpretation of information.	40%

- Committing any serious academic misconduct, such as **plagiarism** of previously published material, or **copying** in the exam or any other graded activity, **will imply not being able to pass the course in the ordinary assessment period.**

- The **use of AI** to create complete works or relevant parts, without citing the source or the tool or without being expressly allowed in the description of the work, will be considered plagiarism and regulated according to the General Regulations of the University.

- At the beginning of the term the professor will announce the office hours for the course. Tutorials are an essential part of the development of the course, and students may attend tutorials during the course within those office times, but it is recommended that they are arranged in advance with the professor.

- Any non-face-to-face learning activity that requires the submission of an assignment/document, etc. will be submitted by the student through Moodle, always in PDF format.

- To be able to take the final exam, students must not have missed **more than one third of the classes without justification**. If this requirement is not met, the student may lose the right to be assessed both in the ordinary and extraordinary assessment period (art. 93-1 of the General Regulations). Failure to attend to the first hour of a two-hour lecture, means having missed the whole session in terms of attendance, regardless of whether or not the student the second hour.

STUDENT WORKLOAD (in hours)		
CONTACT HOURS	OUTSIDE CLASSROOM	OVERALL
60	90	150

READING LIST / RELEVANT REFERENCES

Basic bibliography

Creswell, J. W., & Creswell, J. D. (2022). Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches. 6th Edition. Sage publications.

Kumar, R (2019). Research Methodology. 5th Edition. Sage Publications.

Complementary Bibliography

León, O. & Montero, I. (2015). Métodos de investigación en psicología y educación: las tradiciones cuantitativa y cualitativa (4ª Ed). McGrawHil

Rosenstein, L. D. (2019). *Research design and analysis: A primer for the non-statistician*. John Wiley & Sons.

Field, A. (2024). *Discovering statistics using IBM SPSS statistics*. Sage publications limited.

Goss-Sampson, M. (2019). Statistical analysis in JASP: A guide for students. JASP

Privitera, G. J. (2024). *Research methods for the behavioral sciences*. Sage Publications.

Creswell, J. W., & Poth, C. N. (2023). *Qualitative inquiry and research design: Choosing among five approaches*. 5th Edition. Sage publications.

Denzin, N. K. (2008). *Collecting and interpreting qualitative materials.* 3rd Edition. Sage publications.

Neuman, W. L. (2021). *Social Research Methods: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches* (8th ed.). Pearson.

Moon, K., & Blackman, D. (2014). A guide to understanding social science research for natural scientists. *Conservation Biology, 28*(5), 1167–1177. https://doi.org/10.1111/cobi.12326

Weathington, B. L., Cunningham, C. J. L., & Pittenger, D. J. (2017). Research methods for the behavioral and social sciences. Wiley.