



COURSE SYLLABUS

Course: **RESEARCH METHODS**

COURSE DATA

Degree	Diploma in Humanities and Global Challenges
Academic Year	2023-24
Credits	6
Course type	Elective
Department	Department of Psychology
Language of instruction	English

SHORT DESCRIPTION

In the professional profile of Humanities and Social Sciences graduates, this course has an instrumental character. It aims to introduce the student to the different phases of the research process in the context of social and health sciences, therefore, in the research methodology, in its different designs, in the data collection process, and in the organization and analysis of these data. The objectives of this subject are fundamentally focused on the understanding of concepts, decision making, the choice of procedures and the analysis of information.

CONTENTS AND STRUCTURE

Topic 1 – Knowledge and research

Topic 2 – The scientific method

Topic 3 – Quantitative research

Topic 4 – The scientific report

Topic 5 – Qualitative research

METHODOLOGY

In class learning techniques

Sessions will combine theoretical exposition of the course contents –to provide students with a theoretical foundation and understanding of research designs in Humanities and Social Sciences– and debates –to encourage students to critically think and discuss about the process of obtaining new knowledge, the scientific method, quantitative and qualitative research, and the remaining topics of the subject.

In these sessions, students will also work individually or in small groups to solve exercises and quizzes to consolidate the acquired knowledge.

Independent learning techniques

- Realization of practices and resolution of exercises.
 - Reading and understanding notes and manuals.
 - Search and analysis of information.
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ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Assessment type	Assessment criteria	Percentage
<p><u>MIDTERM EXAM</u>: Theoretical test covering the topics seen in class up to the day of the exam. A minimum grade of 5 (out of 10) is required to pass the exam. Passing the midterm exam will release the student from being tested again from these topics in the final exam.</p> <p><u>FINAL EXAM</u>: Theoretical test covering all the topics seen during the course. A minimum grade of 5 (out of 10) is required to pass the exam and the subject. The final grade of the exams will count for 60% of the final course grade.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Understanding of concepts.- Application of concepts and techniques.- Interpretation of information.	60
<p><u>FINAL PROJECT</u>: In small groups, students will read a scientific paper, interpret it, and prepare a brief report and an oral presentation discussing the methods and conclusions of the paper, as well as their opinion about the quality of the research.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Understanding of concepts.- Application of concepts and techniques.- Interpretation of information.- Critical thinking.	25
<p><u>INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENTS</u>: Individually, students will complete class assignments (e.g., essays, mini tests) related to the topics covered in the course.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Understanding and consolidation of concepts.- Application of concepts and techniques.	15

- 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.**
- 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

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

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

Complementary Bibliography

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

Montero, I. & León, O. (2007). A guide for naming research studies in Psychology. *International Journal of Clinical and Health Psychology*, 7(3), 847-862.

Fink, A. (2014). Conducting research literature reviews: from the internet to the paper. Sage Publications.

Meyer, D. K., & Schutz, P. A. (2020). Why talk about qualitative and mixed methods in educational psychology? Introduction to special issue. *Educational Psychologist*, 55(4), 193-196. <https://10.1080/00461520.2020.1796671>

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

Privitera, G (2015). Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences. Sage Publications.

Tolmie, A (2011). Quantitative methods in educational and social research using SPSS [electronic resource. Maidenhead: Open University Press.

Davis, C (2013). SPSS step by step: essentials for social and political science. Policy Press, 2013.

Field, A. (2013). Discovering statistics using IBM SPSS statistics. Sage Publications.