

## **SOCM17-119 Quantitative Research Methods Practice**

### **Aim of the course**

The main goal of the course, which is a follow-up to the lectures on methodology, is to provide practice for students in some quantitative and qualitative research methods of the social sciences in order to help them plan and make preparations for their future thesis. The research procedure (raising a problem, devising a hypothesis, empirical study, evaluation, publication, ethical aspects) is demonstrated by specific topics of interest to the students (preferably their own research themes.) The course also gives an opportunity for them to get acquainted with basic data processing methods and data processing statistical software.

### **Learning outcomes, competencies**

knowledge:

- Knowledge of qualitative and quantitative research strategies
- Knowledge of formal criteria of scientific publications
- Knowledge of managing scholarly resource databases
- Processing and critically evaluating scholarly literature
- Methods of data processing and analysis, knowledge of statistical programs

attitude:

- Critical-evaluative approach when reading and preparing scientific publications

skills:

- Formulating relevant and precise research questions
- Selecting appropriate research strategies and methods fitting the research questions
- Planning scientific research (research project) and its professional realization
- Data analysis, using statistical programs as a skill
- Capability of writing texts with scientific, elaborated language

### **Content of the course**

#### **Topics of the course**

Collecting literature, literature review, citation forms, reference lists. Using databases (e.g. EBSCO, SAGE). Operationalization and measurement (e.g. indexes, scales, and survey method, content analysis, interview, and focus group). Ethical issues of research. Data collection and computing, statistical methods and softwares. The formal requirements of scientific publication.

#### **Learning activities, learning methods**

Interactive lecture, group discussion, group and individual consultation, oral presentation

### **Evaluation of outcomes**

#### **Learning requirements, mode of evaluation, criteria of evaluation**

Requirements:

- Active participation during the class - maximum 6 hours absence
- Preparing of a research plan (work in small groups or dyads)

- Presenting a research plan (work in small groups or dyads)
- Written assignments during the semester (dates to be designated at the beginning of the course)
- Written final exam based on lecture materials and readings

Method of evaluation:

Practice mark. The writing assignment will be evaluated by grades and text feedback.

Criteria of evaluation:

- Theoretical soundness and professionalism of the research plan
- Coherence and complexity of the submitted work
- Meeting research ethics requirements
- Active, critical participation in the class
- Understanding the topics and connections between different topics, concepts discussed in the course, the capacity to place them in a broader background.

## Reading list

### Compulsory reading list

- Denzin, N., K.; Lincoln, Y., S. (Eds.) (2011). *The SAGE handbook of qualitative research*. Thousand Oaks: Sage.
- Ember, C.R., Ember, M. (2009): *Cross-cultural research methods*. Rowman Altamira Press
- Field, A. (2009): *Discovering Statistics Using SPSS*. Third Edition. London: Sage.
- Kaplan, D. (ed.) (2004). *The SAGE handbook of quantitative methodology for the social sciences*. London: Sage.
- Leech, N.L., Barret, K.C., Morgan, G.A. (2005): *SPSS for Introductory and Intermediate Statistics: IBM SPSS for Intermediate Statistics: Use and Interpretation*. Mahwah, N.J.: Lawrence Erlbau
- Millsap, R.E.; Maydeu-Olivares, A. (Eds.) (2009). *The SAGE handbook of quantitative methods in psychology*. London: Sage.
- Morgan, G.A. (2004): *SPSS for introductory statistics use and interpretation*. Mahwah, N.J.: Lawrence Erlbaum
- Saldaña, J., (2009). *The coding manual for qualitative researchers*. Los Angeles, California: Sage.
- Szokolszky, Á. (2009): *Using Scholarly Literature in Psychology*. Szeged University Press, Szeged.