

112 Qualitative research methods practice

Aim of the course

Students will practice how to design research, how to conceptualize and operationalize their research question, as well as how to collect and analyze data. They will also practice the different methods that they are introduced to during the course.

students will be able to:

- design research on their own
- write research proposals
- understand conceptualization and
- use basic quantitative and qualitative methods

Students will be able to read and understand the methodologies of academic papers as well as conduct basic researches on their own.

Content of the course

The course will address the following topics: general introduction: What is social research?; paradigms and theories; practicing theory construction. After the general introduction, the course will focus on how to design research and what conceptualization means. In the following classes concrete methods will be introduced: quantitative methods: indices, scales, surveys, data collection; content analysis and other unobtrusive methods. Then the course will focus on qualitative methods: interviews. How do we analyze qualitative data?; practicing in-depth semi-structured interview method; practicing biographical and narrative interviews; qualitative field research and case study method.

Evaluation of outcomes

Students have to attend classes and actively participate. In addition, their final grade will be based on the submission of four assignments:

- a research proposal (topic, research questions, hypotheses, conceptualization and methods); deadline: class 5.
 - a sample of content analysis; deadline: class 8.
 - an interview outline; deadline: class 10.
 - an interview transcription; deadline class 13.
- : submitting assignments

Class participation: 20%

Assignments: 80%

Reading list

Babbie, Earl R.: The Practice of Social Research. 2001

Kvale, Steinar, Doing interviews. Los Angeles: SAGE Publications, 2007. – Thematizing and Designing an Interview Study.