

Title of the course:	Social Research		
Course ID:	VE-NPT026		
Level of education:	Erasmus	Academic semester: 2022/2023 Fall Semester	Spring
Professor's name:	Dr. Laki Ildikó	Academic title: PhD	
Hours per semester:	26	Credits:	4
Exam:	yes	Pre-requisites:	no

Aims of the course

The aim of Social Research course is to provide students with the knowledge, skills, and confidence they need to conduct rigorous and meaningful research that contributes to our understanding of society and human behavior. It is also important to provide students with a solid understanding of the principles and methods of social research, including qualitative and quantitative research methods and to equip students with the skills necessary to conduct social research independently, from conceptualization to data collection, analysis, and interpretation. The participants can develop their critical thinking skills and their ability to evaluate the quality of research studies and the validity of their findings. The students can learn how to write research reports and communicate their findings to different audiences. The course introduces students to ethical issues in social research, such as informed consent, confidentiality, and privacy and encourage them to engage in original research and produce novel contributions to the field of social science.

Course outline

The purpose of social research is to gain an understanding of human behavior, attitudes, beliefs, and values, as well as the factors that influence them.

- I. Introduction
 - A. Definition of social research
 - B. Importance of social research
 - C. Types of social research
- II. Research Design
 - A. Research questions and hypotheses
 - B. Variables
 - C. Sampling techniques
 - D. Data collection methods
- III. Data Analysis
 - A. Quantitative analysis
 - B. Qualitative analysis
- IV. Ethical Considerations
 - A. Informed consent
 - B. Confidentiality
 - C. Privacy
 - D. Protection of vulnerable populations
- V. Conclusion
 - A. Significance of the study
 - B. Limitations of the study
 - C. Suggestions for future research
- VI. References
 - A. List of sources cited in the study.

Practical works

- Developing a research proposal: Students are asked to develop a research proposal that outlines their research question, methodology, and data collection techniques.

- Conducting a literature review: Students are required to conduct a literature review to identify existing research on their topic of interest.

- Collecting data: Students are asked to collect data using a variety of methods, such as surveys, interviews, focus groups, or observations.

- Analyzing data: Students are required to analyze the data they have collected using various statistical and qualitative methods.

Writing a research report: Students are asked to write a research report that summarizes their research findings, discusses their implications, and identifies areas for further research.

Presenting research findings: Students are required to present their research findings to the class or at a conference.

Ethics in research: Students are introduced to ethical considerations in research and required to complete an ethics review for their research project.

Requirements and assessment

- To absolve the course, students have to actively participate in the lessons, present the research plan, and the whole research with the results.

- Students receive a grade according to the following elements: prepare a re-search plan (10%), elaborate and present literature (20%), prepare research tool (20%), conduct the research and research presentation (50%).

- Students evaluate their peers' work as well, especially their own group mates' one.

Grades:

0-50% failed

51-60% satisfactory

61-70% average

71-80% good

81%- excellent

Readings

- "Social Research Methods" by Alan Bryman (2016, Oxford, Oxford University Press)

- "Qualitative Research: A Guide to Design and Implementation" by Sharan B. Merriam and Elizabeth J. Tisdell (2016, San Francisco, Jossey-Bass)

- "Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research" by Gary King, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba (1994, Princeton, Princeton University Press)

- "The Practice of Social Research" by Earl Babbie (2016, Belmont, Wadsworth Cengage Learning)

- "Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches" by John W. Creswell and J. David Creswell (2017, Thousand Oaks, Sage Publications)

- "Research Methods in Anthropology: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches" by H. Russell Bernard (2017, Lanham, AltaMira Press)

- "Social Research: Issues, Methods and Process" by Tim May (2011, Maidenhead, Open University Press)

- "The SAGE Handbook of Social Research Methods" edited by Pertti Alasuutari, Leonard Bickman, and Julia Brannen (2010, Thousand Oaks, Sage Publications)

- "Research Methods for Social Work" by Allen Rubin and Earl R. Babbie (2016, Belmont, Brooks/Cole Cengage Learning)

- "An Invitation to Social Research: How It's Done" by Emily Stier Adler and Roger Clark (2018, Boston, Cengage Learning)