DEGREE PROGRAM IN TECNOLOGIE E LINGUAGGI DELLA COMUNICAZIONE - TECHNOLOGIES AND LANGUAGES OF COMMUNICATIONS (LM-59) CURRICULUM IN INTERACTION DESIGN

A.Y. 2023/2024

Course Social Research Lab
SDS SPS/07
ETCS 5
Course modules (if any) None
Year I year
Semester II semester
Professor(s) Maria Chiara De Angelis
e-mail mc.deangelis@unilink.it
Office hour At the end of the lesson or by appointment agreed by e-mail.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

The aim of the course is to achieve the following learning outcomes:

1. **KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING SKILLS:** to know and understand the role of sociological theory in the research process; recognize the fundamental notions of applied sociological research; recognize and understand the methodologies and tools appropriate to the research question and working hypotheses;

2. **APPLIED KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING SKILLS:** at the end of the course, the student must be able to
   a. define the research problem;
   b. identify the link between the research problem, the theory, the working hypotheses and the choice of investigation tools;
   c. critically evaluate the choice of different research methods, their advantages and limitations in addressing the research question; build the research tools (on-desk research, questionnaires, interviews, focus groups, etc.);
   d. know the ethical implications of social research.

3. **AUTONOMY JUDGMENT:** the student must develop the ability to
   a. reflect critically on the social and scientific relevance of research;
   b. develop a research project and reflect on it critically;
   c. develop research assignment tools and critically reflect on the opportunities and limits of their use;

4. **COMMUNICATION SKILLS:** the student must acquire
   a. linguistic and conceptual mastery of sector terminology;
   b. the ability to argue and communicate clearly to different interlocutors and in different contexts.

5. **LEARNING ABILITY:** The student must prove to be able to
   a. acquire the bibliographic, linguistic-lexical and conceptual tools necessary to articulate a critical reflection on the topics covered and develop critical thinking on them;
   b. develop and illustrate a path of reflection and independent research;
   c. work in a group and propose knowledge-building paths.

DETAILED PROGRAM

The course aims to provide theoretical-practical knowledge on sociological research and its application in the field of social policies and interventions. To this end, the course integrates theoretical-methodological topics with their concrete application, and is divided into a first

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theoretical part and a second part of a laboratory nature.

In the theoretical part, the evolution of the concept of "social research" is presented with a general introduction to the research process and its different forms in the social sciences. The course focuses in particular on the work of some of the major exponents of sociological thought and on the research topics of the current contemporary sociological debate. Particular attention will be paid to the impact of digital transformation on social research practices and its ethical implications.

The second part of a laboratory nature involves the active involvement of students through the creation of thematic insights through individual or group project work.

The following topics will be specifically addressed:
- Presentation of the course and the examination and evaluation methods
- Definition of the «Training Agreement»
- Evolution of social research: sociological approaches and application areas.
- Social research methodology – theories and techniques (the research design, the research hypothesis, qualitative methods, quantitative methods, the new scenarios of social research)
- Communicating social research
- Ethics of online and offline social research

RECOMMENDED PRE-REQUISITES (IF ANY)
None

TEACHING METHODOLOGIES
The educational activities will be carried out through lectures/frontal presentations followed by exchange and comparison sessions in which students will be active protagonists through individual work alternating with moments of presentation, reflection and collaboration in groups. Furthermore, students will be involved in an active and participatory manner through research activities, discussions, presentations and final individual and/or group project work.

FINAL EXAMINATION METHODOLOGIES
The final exam, for attending and non-attending students, takes place with an oral interview on the contents of the course and the assigned study texts.

However, for attending students the final evaluation of the oral exam will also take into account the degree and quality of the student's participation in the activities and in carrying out the work carried out during the course.

EVALUATION CRITERIA
At the end of the course, the following skills of the student will be evaluated:
1. **KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING SKILLS:** having acquired the basic knowledge relating to the topics listed in the detailed teaching programme;
2. **APPLIED KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING SKILLS**: being able to develop a

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research project and collaborate in a group;

3. **AUTONOMY JUDGMENT:** having acquired a capacity to outline analysis paths starting from a critical reflection on social research in its theoretical and applicative frameworks.
4. **COMMUNICATION SKILLS:** being able to use the linguistic and conceptual mastery of sector terminology and different communicative registers according to the of the different contexts/tools/targets;
5. **LEARNING ABILITY:** being able to articulate a critical reflection on the topics covered and develop critical thinking on them; work in a group and propose knowledge-building paths.

FINAL GRADING INFORMATION AND CRITERIA

The final score is expressed in thirtieth grade, with the possibility of honors. The final score reflects the student's preparation as follows:

Score	Description
< 18 not sufficient	Fragmentary and superficial knowledge of contents, errors in applying concepts, insufficient exposure.
18-20	Sufficient but still general knowledge of contents, elementary exposure, uncertainties in the application of theoretical notions.
21-23	Appropriate, but not deep, knowledge of contents, good ability in applying theoretical notions as well as presenting them in a simple way.
24-25	Appropriate and vast knowledge of contents, discrete ability in applying them, good ability in presenting notions in a comprehensive way.
26-27	Precise and comprehensive knowledge of the topics, good ability in applying the acquired knowledge, good analytical skills, clear and correct exposure.
28-29	Extensive, comprehensive and deep knowledge of contents, good applicative skills, good ability of analysis and synthesis, confident and correct exposure.
30 30 with honors	Very broad, comprehensive and deep knowledge of the contents, well-established ability to apply the acquired notions, excellent ability of analysis, synthesis as well as ability to create interdisciplinary links, fluency of exposure.

COURSE MATERIAL

For the preparation of the exam, **for attending and non-attending students**, in addition

to the material provided during the lessons, the following **mandatory texts** are needed:

1. Nobile, S. (2022), *Introduzione alla metodologia della ricerca sociale*, Roma, Carocci

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2. M.P. Faggiano (2016), *L'analisi del contenuto di oggi e di ieri. Testi e contesti on e offline,* Milano, FrancoAngeli

Other **suggested texts**, in order to delve into the treated topics, are the following:

1. Mills, C. W., & Marsiglia, G. (2018). *L'immaginazione sociologica*. Il Saggiatore. Retrieved from https://www.perlego.com/book/1096360/limmaginazione-sociologica-pdf (Original work published 2018)
2. Becker H. (2007) I trucchi del mestiere, Bologna: Mulino. In Inglese: Tricks of the Trade: How to Think About Your Research While You're Doing it, Chicago Guides to Writing, Editing and Publishing
3. Abbott A. (2004) *Methods of Discovery. Heurisitcs for the social sciences*, New York, NY: W.W. Norton, 2004

OTHER ADVICES

Attendance and active participation are required.

The entire course is based on a methodology that enhances collaborative learning and group work, placing the student at the center of the learning process, through his active commitment to studying to promote the formation of transversal skills.

Students belonging to the 'part-time/workers' category or being unable to take part in the lessons are suggested to directly contact the professor in order to analyze, together, specific training needs.

NB: It is possible to bring your personal devices (tablet/laptop) into the classroom for individual and/or group work.