

**COURSE DATA****DATA SUBJECT**

Code: 33508
Name: Methods and social research techniques
Cycle: Undergraduate Studies
ECTS Credits: 10.5
Academic year: 2025-26

STUDY (S)

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
1311 - Degree in Social Work	Facultat de Ciències Socials	3	Annual

SUBJECT-MATTER

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1311 - Degree in Social Work	Sociology	COMPULSORY

COORDINATION

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SUMMARY

Methods and Techniques in Social Research is one of the 3 subjects that make up the core subject Sociology, included in the module Processes and Problems of Social Work. The subject is compulsory and worth 10.5 ECTS credits. It takes place during the whole third academic year (4.5 credits in the first quarter and 6 in the second quarter).

The content of the subject is essential for the training of students since it provides operational knowledge on the different research methods and techniques of Social Sciences, especially their application on Social Work. Social Work requires a deeper knowledge in order to fulfil their main objective: intervention and social evaluation to cope with social needs. Research not only provides reflection prior to acting but also during and after intervention, which is especially useful given that it allows the social worker to generate his/her own theories and methodologies from analysis and practical reflection.

Likewise, the content of this subject contributes to a comprehensive training of professional social workers not only regarding practical performance but also concerning knowledge and critical analysis of the environment they work in.

The subject approaches the philosophical basis upon which the methods and techniques have been formulated. The principles, types and planning of social research teach how to conduct an empirical



research; make students become familiar with the documental and statistical sources that can be used and takes a deeper approach on the qualitative and quantitative techniques of data production used in Social Sciences.

PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SUBJECTS OF THE SAME DEGREE

There are no specified enrollment restrictions with other subjects of the curriculum.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

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Apply strategies for the identification, intervention and assessment in social work in the face of behaviours, contexts and circumstances that create risk situations for individuals, groups and communities.

Assess needs and possible options to guide an intervention strategy from a social work perspective.

Demonstrate critical and self-critical thinking in the field of the degree programme, considering aspects such as professional ethics, moral values and the social implications of the different activities carried out.

Demonstrate professional competence in the practice of social work.

Establish professional relationships in order to identify the most appropriate form of intervention.

Identify the disciplinary knowledge necessary for the analysis of contemporary society, its structure and dynamics, including the complexity of social phenomena, adopting a multidisciplinary perspective.

Know methods and models of social work for intervention with individuals, families, groups, organisations and communities according to their needs and circumstances.

Learn about the design, implementation and evaluation of social intervention projects.

Resolve crisis situations by assessing their urgency, planning and developing actions to deal with them and reviewing their results.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

1. The analysis of social reality.



1.

1. The analysis of social reality. Science, research, methods and techniques.
Methodological pluralism in social research.
Research in the field of Social Work.

2.

2. The logic of research.
Introduction to the process of research and its stages.
The formulation of the research problem.
The theoretical framework.
The elaboration of hypothesis.
The design of the research.
The final report.

3.

Research through documental sources.
Uses of research through secondary data.
Types of documental sources.
Evaluation of the quality of secondary data.
Advantages and disadvantages of research from documental sources.

QUANTITATIVE TECHNIQUES

Methodological particularities in quantitative research.
The measurement of variables: typologies.
Operationalization of concepts.
Validity and reliability criteria.
Types of error in quantitative research.

The sampling design.
Population, sample and sampling frame.
Requirements of statistic sampling.
Types of sampling: simple, systematic, stratified, cluster and quotes.

The survey.
The use of the survey in social research.
The process of survey research: design of the questionnaire, pre-test, fieldwork and data register.
Advantages and disadvantages of the survey research.

Introduction to statistical analysis
Preparation of data
Univariable analysis
Bivariable analysis
Introduction to data analysis with SPSS



4.

QUALITATIVE TECHNIQUES

Methodological particularities in qualitative research.
 Paradigms and perspectives.
 Specificities in qualitative research: sampling decisions.

The observation technique.
 Observation uses.
 Modes of observation and participation.
 Design, application and analysis of observation.
 Advantages and disadvantages of observation.

In-depth interview.
 Qualitative interview in social research.
 Types of interviews.
 Design, development and analysis of the interview.
 Advantages and disadvantages of the interview.

Discussion group.
 Introduction to the technique of group discussion.
 Design, development and analysis of group discussion.
 Advantages and disadvantages of group discussion.

Biographical techniques.
 Introduction to the biographical method: uses and modes.
 Design and implementation of biographical techniques
 Strengths and weaknesses of the biographical method.

WORKLOAD

PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Theoretical and practical classes	105,00
Total hours	105,00

NON PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Attendance at other activities	7,50
Individual or group project	50,00
Independent study and work	25,00
Preparation of lessons	35,00
Preparation for assessment activities	40,00
Resolution of case studies	0,00
Total hours	157,50



TEACHING METHODOLOGY

EVALUATION

REFERENCES

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