COURSE DATA

DATA SUBJECT

Code: 35056
Name: Research methods in Social Sciences I
Cycle: Undergraduate Studies
ECTS Credits: 6
Academic year: 2026-27

STUDY (S)

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
1302 - Degree in Criminology	Facultat de Dret	1	Second quarter
1923 - Double Degree Programme Law-Criminology	Facultat de Dret	1	Second quarter

SUBJECT-MATTER

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1302 - Degree in Criminology	Sociology	BASIC
1923 - Double Degree Programme Law-Criminology	Year 1 compulsory subjects	COMPULSORY

COORDINATION

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SUMMARY

Research methods in Social Sciences I is an undergraduate course. It is offered in the second semester of the first year and its content is partly related to the Statistics course taught in the first semester. It also builds upon the subject of Methods of Research in Social Sciences II, which is offered in the third semester. This course carries a workload of 6 ECTS credits. Considering that each ECTS credit is equivalent to 25 hours of student work, the total volume of work required for this course is 150 hours.
The course serves as an introduction to methods and techniques of social research in criminology. It covers the ontological, epistemological, and methodological foundations of research, as well as methodological pluralism and its application. In the initial part, it addresses the phases of quantitative research, different methodological designs, and data collection and analysis techniques.
This discipline is essential in students' education as it prepares them to acquire the necessary knowledge, skills, and abilities for designing and conducting social research in various professional fields of criminology. It provides them with operational knowledge of different methods and techniques of social science research and their application to the criminological social reality.
The course explores the epistemological basis upon which social research methods and techniques have been built, as well as the principles, types, and programming of social research. It demonstrates how to conduct empirical quantitative research, familiarizes students with documentary and statistical sources that can be used, and delves into the main quantitative techniques for data production used in the 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

This subject takes advantage of the knowledge acquired by students with the subject of Statistics in the first semester and continues with the subject of Research Methods in Social Sciences II

COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

1302 - Degree in Criminology

Aprender a distinguir las distintas vías de acceder a la investigación en Criminología. G: 2, 4 y E: 2

Manejo básico de herramientas de análisis sociológico: gráficos, tablas G: 9

Saber utilizar diversas fuentes de información: estadísticas, portales G: 2, 9 y E: 2, 4 y 6

Ser capaz de analizar y reflexionar sobre la realidad social.E: 3, 15

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

1. Methodological approach to the analysis of social reality: paradigm, method and techniques

Why research is conducted
Types of research
Quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods

2. The organization of a quantitative research

The research problem
The research question
Types of research question
Stages of a research

3. The process of operationalization: from abstract concepts to measurable indicators

Identification of indicators
Types of variables
Indexes

4. Secondary sources and data processing

Some of the main databases: World Bank, World Values Survey, CIS
How to import and export data
Data visualization

5. How to formulate questions: survey

The importance of formulating questions
Survey: objective, sections
Types of survey questions and scales

6. Data analysis

ANOVA
Linear regression
Logistic regression
Cluster analysis
AI tools for data analysis

7. Communicating research results and AI tools

Formats for presenting and communicating research results
The use of artificial intelligence tools in communication

WORKLOAD

PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Theoretical and practical classes	60,00
Total hours	**60,00**

NON PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Attendance at other activities	0,00
Individual or group project	45,00
Independent study and work	30,00
Preparation of lessons	15,00
Preparation for assessment activities	0,00
Resolution of case studies	0,00
Total hours	**90,00**

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

Formation activities

The teaching methodology will combine theoretical and practical training activities, tutoring, and those that include the study, evaluation and, in general, the individual and team work of the students.

The operation of the activities will be as follows:

1) Theoretical classes: the teaching staff will present the most relevant concepts of each subject, facilitating outlines and asking questions that will be clarified and work in class.

Students will prepare classes as follows:

a) reading the subject material previously specified by the teacher,

b) extracting the fundamental concepts

c) preparing the sheets corresponding to these topics

2) Practical Classes: The practical classes will use the participatory model in order to prioritize communication between teacher-student and between students, and to enhance co-responsibility in the learning process.

The practical work will be carried out as a team in order to motivate both the research activity, analysis and internalization of the information, as well as to promote personal relationships and share problems and solutions.

In addition to the practical activities linked to the thematic units that will be proposed in some sessions, or the practices related to the use of databases or computer programs for data analysis, the most relevant part of the practice will consist of carrying out a group research project that must be publicly defended in class. For the execution of these projects, the students will have certain hours of instruction outside the classroom in order to carry out the field work.

3) Readings: The teaching staff will offer a list of research articles, both quantitative and qualitative, from which each student will choose one for reading and subsequent work. Likewise, the students must complete the information that is presented in the classroom on the topics of the program with the texts suggested by the teaching staff.

4) Seminars and activities. These seminars and activities complement some of the sessions on the agenda. The organization of talks or round tables with the possible attendance at these activities of expert professionals in the topics discussed is proposed.

5) Tutoring. In addition to the individual tutorials that the students can carry out for the pertinent consultations (resolve specific doubts about the content and development of the subject), tutorials will be scheduled with the work teams to carry out a detailed monitoring of the various activities that make up the learning process, facilitating the use of the resources / tools they need to explore and develop new knowledge and skills.

EVALUATION

For the evaluation of the subject, the following are established as general principles:

- Exam type tests, in their different modalities, aimed at verifying the most specific knowledge. Represents 60% of the final grade.

- The group research project, which must be defended publicly in class. Represents 30% of the final grade.

- Other individual or group practical activities. Represents 10% of the final grade.

To pass the course it will be essential to pass the exam and group work separately, that is to say get at least 3 out of the 6 points of the exam and 1.5 out of the 3 points of the group work. In order to pass the course, the final grade must be at least 5. In any case, the attendance and participation of the students will be valued both in the classroom classes and in the tutorials or complementary activities that are organized.

The rating system will comply with current legislation

REFERENCES

- - Cárdenas, Julián (2018) Investigación cuantitativa. Berlin: TrAndes,Programa de Posgrado en Desarrollo Sostenible y Desigualdades Sociales en la Región Andina - Cea DAncona, M. Ángeles (2012) Fundamentos y aplicaciones en metodología cuantitativa. Síntesis, Madrid - Hernández Sampieri, R. et all. (2014) Metodología de la investigación. McGraw-Hill, interamericana, México. Primera edición 2010.

- Callejo, J. (2009) Introducción a las técnicas de investigación social. Centro de estudios Ramón Areces. Madrid. Callejo, J., Viedma, A (2005) Proyectos y estrategias de investigación social: la perspectiva de la intervención. MacGraw-Hill. Interamericana de España, S.A. Brunet, I., Belzunegui,A y Pastor, I. (2000) Les técniques d'investigació social i la seva aplicació. Tarragona, Universitat Rovira i Virgili. -García Ferrando, M., Ibañez, J. y Alvira, F (comp) (2000) El análisis de la realidad social. Métodos y técnicas de investigación.Madrid, Alianza. -García Ferrando, M.; Alvira, F.R.; Alonso, L.E.; Escobar,M. (coords.) (2016) "El análisis de la realidad social. Métodos y técnicas de investigación": Madrid: Alianza. (4 ed.)