

**Qualitative Research Methods in Criminology**

Code: 100451  
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2500257 Criminology	OB	3	1

**Contact**

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**Use of languages**

Principal working language: catalan (cat)  
Some groups entirely in English: No  
Some groups entirely in Catalan: Yes  
Some groups entirely in Spanish: No

**Other comments on languages**

If there are foreign students, the possibility of teaching in Spanish will be considered.

**Prerequisites**

To have passed the subject of "Scientific Research in Criminology".

**Objectives and Contextualisation**

- To understand the epistemological foundations of qualitative social research.
- To know how to apply these fundamentals to the design and analysis of a criminological research.
- To know and apply the principal qualitative data collection techniques.
- To know and apply the technique of content analysis.
- To know and use the Atlas-TI treatment program qualitative data.

**Skills**

- Ability to analyse and summarise.
- Applying the quantitative and qualitative data collection techniques in the criminological field.
- Clearly explaining and arguing a carried out analysis about a conflict or crime problem and its responses in front of specialised and non-specialised audiences.
- Designing a criminological research and identifying the appropriate methodological strategy to the proposed goals.
- Drawing up an academic text.
- Formulating research hypothesis in the criminological field.
- Using research methods in social sciences in order to diagnose criminality problems.
- Verbally transmitting ideas to an audience.
- Working autonomously.
- Working in teams and networking.

## **Learning outcomes**

1. Ability to analyse and summarise.
2. Applying the quantitative and qualitative data collection techniques in the criminological field.
3. Choosing the appropriate research methodology in criminological works.
4. Designing criminological research projects with well-drawn hypothesis.
5. Diagnosing a criminal process through the scientific method.
6. Drawing up an academic text.
7. Transmitting in a reasoned manner the results of a criminological research.
8. Verbally transmitting ideas to an audience.
9. Working autonomously.
10. Working in teams and networking.

## **Content**

### **CONTENTS:**

1. Basics of qualitative methodology.
  - 1.1. Epistemological issues in Social Sciences.
  - 1.2. Genesis and evolution of the hermeneutic perspective.
  - 1.3. Basic features and types of qualitative methods.
  - 1.4. Axiological issues.
2. Designing a qualitative research.
  - 2.1. Foundations of the analysis model.
  - 2.2. Delimitation of the field of analysis, sampling and recruitment.
  - 2.3. Sociostructural saturation and informative saturation.
3. Techniques applied to the interaction of groups.
  - 3.1. The sociometric approach.
  - 3.2. Participant observation.
  - 3.3. Not-participant observation.
4. Technical narrative: interview and group discussion.
  - 4.1. Types of interviews.
  - 4.2. The discussion groups.
5. Technique of biographical stories.
  - 5.1. Types of stories.
  - 5.2. The life history.
6. The content analysis.
  - 6.1. Basics.
  - 6.2. Coding and analysis units.

6.3. Axes interpretation of the data.

6.4. The treatment of qualitative data through Atlas-TI.

## Methodology

The work required to the student for the adequate learning of the contents of the subject and the achievement of the skills will consist of the following activities:

- Lectures
- Practical seminars, to complement and deepen the contents of lectures, as well as to make a practical application of them.
- Instrumental practice sessions, through the use of computer tools.
- Supplementary work activities inside and outside the classroom, including:
  - a) Basic readings.
  - b) Practical exercises.
  - c) A group work oriented to apply the contents of the subject.

Attendance at a minimum of 80% of the classes, both theoretical and seminars, is compulsory.

## Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
<b>Type: Directed</b>			
Lectures	22.5	0.9	2, 5
Readings, analysis and synthesis of the material. Preparation of exercises and examination.	70	2.8	2, 5, 4, 3, 9
Seminars	22.5	0.9	2, 5, 4, 3, 7
<b>Type: Supervised</b>			
Work group and practical exercises	32	1.28	2, 5, 4, 3, 6, 7, 9
<b>Type: Autonomous</b>			
Individual examination	3	0.12	2, 5, 9

## Evaluation

### Parts of the evaluation:

- Individual examination: 40%
- Group work: 40%
- Practical exercises: 20%

## Requirements to pass

To pass the subject a minimum average mark of 5 is required. However, in order to pass a minimum of 4 out of 10 is required in each part of the evaluation.

If unexcused or excused out of time absences (two weeks from the absence) exceed 20% of the total number of seminar classes, students will not be evaluated.

## Recuperation

If students fail in group work or in the exam they will have a chance of reassessment, but in case of passing the maximum mark will be 5 out of 10.

## Fraudulent conduct

Students who cheat during the exam will get a fail mark, losing the possibility of recuperation. In case of plagiarism in the writing of works, each case will be evaluated and in the extreme case the option of direct fail without option to reassessment will be considered.

## Evaluation activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Group work	40%	0	0	2, 4, 3, 6, 1, 9, 10
Individual examination	40%	0	0	2, 5, 1, 9
Practical exercises	20%	0	0	2, 5, 1, 7, 8, 9

## Bibliography

### Basic Bibliography:

Valles, Miguel S. (1997). *Técnicas cualitativas de investigación social. Reflexión metodológica y práctica profesional*. Madrid: Síntesis.

Navarro, P.; Díaz, C. (1994) "Análisis de contenido", a Juan Manuel Delgado y Juan Gutiérrez (ed.): *Métodos y técnicas cualitativas de investigación en ciencias sociales*. Madrid: Síntesis.

### Complementary Bibliography:

Aguirre, A. (Ed.)(1995) *Etnografía. Metodología en la investigación sociocultural*. Barcelona: Editorial Boixareu Universitaria.

Altheide, D. L.; Johnson, J. M. (1994) "Criteria for Assessing Interpretative Validity in Qualitative Research", a N. K. Denzin i Y. S. Lincoln (ed.): *Handbook of Qualitative Research*. Thousand Oaks (California): Sage.

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- Pujadas, J.J. (1992). Método biográfico: El uso de las historias de vida en ciencias sociales. Madrid: Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas.
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- Taylor, S.J.; Bogdan, R. (1992). Introducción a los métodos cualitativos de investigación. La búsqueda de significados. Barcelona: Paidós.
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