

Qualitative Research Methods in Criminology

Code: 100451
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2500257 Criminology	OB	3	1

Contact

Name: Lluís Sáez Giol

Email: Lluís.Saez@uab.cat

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 teaching will be taught in Spanish.

Prerequisites

It is highly recommended to have passed the subject "Scientific Research in Criminology".

Objectives and Contextualisation

- To understand the epistemological foundations of qualitative social research.
- To know how to use qualitative methods in criminological research
- To know how to use qualitative data collection techniques.
- To know how to use content analysis methods.
- To know how to use the qualitative software program Atlas-TI

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. Techniques for narratives: interview and group discussion.

- 4.1. Types of interviews.
- 4.2. Group discussion

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 achievement of the competences of the course will be provided through the following activities:

- Lectures
- Practical seminars, to complement and deepen the contents of lectures, as well as to make a practical application of them.
- Workshops to learn how to use computer tools.
- Supplementary work activities inside and outside the classroom, including:
 - a) Readings
 - b) Exercises
 - c) A group work oriented to apply the contents of the subject.

Attendance at a minimum of 80% of the classes, both to lectures and seminars, is mandatory.

In the Virtual Campus, from the beginning of the course, the schedule of the sessions of the classroom will appear.

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Type: Directed			
Lectures	22.5	0.9	2, 5, 4, 3, 1
Type: Supervised			
Practical exercises and simulation of cases.	22.5	0.9	2, 5, 4, 3, 1, 7, 8, 9, 10
Type: Autonomous			
Readings, analysis and synthesis of the material.	60	2.4	2, 1, 9
Work group	40	1.6	2, 5, 4, 3, 6, 1, 7, 9, 10

Evaluation

Parts of the evaluation:

- Final exam: 50%
- Group work: 40%
- Individual exercises: 10%

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.

Resit

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 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, 5, 4, 3, 6, 1, 7, 9, 10
Individual examination	50%	5	0.2	2, 5, 1, 9
Practical exercises	10%	0	0	2, 5, 4, 3, 1, 8, 9, 10

Bibliography

Mandatory Bibliography:

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

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Recommended Bibliography:

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

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- Quivy, R.; Van Campenhout, L. (1997). *Manual de recerca en ciències socials*. Barcelona: Herder.
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- Trinidad, A.; Carrero, Virginia; Soriano, Rosa M^a (2006). *Teoría fundamentada "Grounded Theory". La construcción de la teoría a través del análisis interpretacional*. Madrid: CIS.
- Valles, M.S. (2002). *Entrevistas cualitativas*. Madrid: CIS.