

**Social Research Techniques**

Code: 100480  
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2500258 Labour Relations	OB	3	2

**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

**Prerequisites**

There are no prerequisites to do the course.

Morning sessions: professor Joan Rodríguez

Afternoon sessions: professor Josep Maria Antentas

The course will be given in Catalan.

**Objectives and Contextualisation**

The subject seeks to initiate the students in the realm of social science research, applied to the field of Labor Relations. The main interest of the subject is to introduce the students to the basic concepts and instruments of research in social science. More specifically, the central goal of the course is that the students learn, first of all, to design a research project in the field of labor relations and, in second place, to design and implement a methodological strategy.

**Skills**

- Applying quantitative and qualitative social investigation techniques to the labour field.
- Clearly expressing ideas or facts in a compelling way.
- Developing critical thinking and reasoning and communicating them effectively both in your own and other languages.
- Developing research projects in the labour field.
- Drawing up and formalising reports and documents.
- Generating innovative and competitive proposals in research and professional activity.
- Identifying the foundations of the main organization areas in the field of human labour.
- Identifying, analysing and solving complex problems and situations from an (economic, historical, legal, psychological, and sociological) interdisciplinary perspective.
- Planning, designing, consulting and managing occupational risk prevention systems.
- Producing, developing and assessing occupational and continued training plans in regulated and non regulated fields.
- Working autonomously.
- Working effectively in teams.

## **Learning outcomes**

1. Analysing the obtained data and managing discussion groups.
2. Carrying out interviews in the investigation processes.
3. Clearly expressing ideas or facts in a compelling way.
4. Developing critical thinking and reasoning and communicating them effectively both in your own and other languages.
5. Drawing up and formalising reports and documents.
6. Generating innovative and competitive proposals in research and professional activity.
7. Knowing the qualitative and quantitative social investigation techniques applied to the labour field.
8. Producing, developing and assessing occupational and continued training plans in regulated and non regulated fields.
9. Recognising the pressure groups and collective action.
10. Solving the practical problems related to epidemiology.
11. Students must know the basic concepts of the social organization of labour in a company.
12. Understanding the problems derived from conflict in the industrial relations.
13. Understanding the research applied to Industrial Relations.
14. Working autonomously.
15. Working effectively in teams.

## **Content**

### **I. Introduction: Research in Social Sciences**

Social science research: what is it and why it is used?

Information sources: type of information, validity, location of documentary sources and systematization of information.

### **II. The research process**

The research process: the main stages

The formulation of the problem to be investigated: what do we want to search for?

The analysis model: the key concepts and the hypotheses

The design of the investigation: toward empirical testing

Quantitative techniques: search, treatment and analysis of statistical data; the survey

Qualitative techniques: interviews, discussion groups, observation and Delphy method.

### **III. Preparation of the project and the report**

The project: a tool for intervention

The report: a tool for dissemination

## **Methodology**

Given the practical nature of the course, the teaching methodology is an important feature. It combines four types of strategies: lecture sessions in the classroom where the teaching staff will explain the theoretical content; practical sessions in the classroom that allow to apply the concepts acquired; follow-up tutorials; and autonomous work. These different activities are explained in detail above, including the distribution of the total time that the student has to dedicate to the subject.

## Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
<b>Type: Directed</b>			
Theoretical lessons	21	0.84	7, 4, 13, 3, 6
Tutorials and practical sessions	21	0.84	7, 8, 3, 2, 14, 15
<b>Type: Autonomous</b>			
Student external work	100	4	7, 4, 3, 2, 5, 14, 15

## Evaluation

The work of the students during the course will be mainly structured around a collective research project (4 people). This research project will be followed up and evaluated through three partial deliveries that will be made progressively throughout the course. The final project will be delivered at the end of the course. The set of these tasks will mean 40% of the final grade.

Additionally, a final written exam will be carried out that will represent 40% of the final grade. The remaining 20% of the evaluation will be achieved by assisting in practical sessions and tasks associated with them. Each of these parts must achieve a minimum degree of sufficiency. There will be re-evaluation for students who do not pass the subject in the first call.

At the beginning of the semester, a general schedule of the course will be made available to the students. In it the dates of the evaluable activities will be indicated.

## Evaluation activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Attendance and seminars	20%	4	0.16	1, 7, 8, 13, 3, 2, 5, 14
Exam	40%	2	0.08	7, 4, 13, 3, 6, 5
Research project	40%	2	0.08	1, 11, 7, 4, 8, 12, 13, 3, 2, 6, 9, 5, 10, 14, 15

## Bibliography

### Basic Bibliography

BRUNET, Ignasi.; BELZUNEGUI, Angel; PASTOR, Imma., *Les Tècniques d'investigació social i la seva aplicació*, Tarragona : Servei Lingüístic de la Universitat Rovira i Virgili, 2000.

KÖHLER, Holm-Detlev.; MARTÍN ARTILES, Antonio., "La metodología de la sociología de las relaciones laborales". A *Manual de Sociología del trabajo y de las relaciones laborales*. Madrid: Delta, Publicaciones Universitarias, 2005

QUIVY, Raymond.; CAMPENHOUDT, Luc Van, *Manual de Recerca en Ciències Socials*. Barcelona: Herder, 1997 (també disponible en edició castellana: *Manual de investigación en ciencias sociales*. México: LIMUSA, 1993.)

VALLES, Miguel, *Técnicas cualitativas de investigación social. Reflexión metodológica y práctica profesional*. Madrid: Síntesis, 1997.

### **Additional bibliography**

BELLO, Judith. *Cómo hacer tú primer trabajo de investigación. Guía para investigadoras en educación y en ciencias sociales*. Barcelona: Gedisa, 2002.

BRUNET, Ignasi.; BELZUNEGUI, Angel; PASTOR, Imma *Técnicas de investigación social: fundamentos epistemológicos y metodológicos*. Barcelona: Pórtico, 2002.

CEA De ANCONA, Maria Angeles, *Metodología cuantitativa. Estrategias y técnicas de investigación social*. Madrid: Síntesis, 1998.

DUVERGER, Maurice, *Métodos de las ciencias sociales*. Barcelona: Ariel, 1962.

GARCIA FERRANDO, Manuel.; IBAÑEZ, Jesus.; ALVIRA, Francisco., *El análisis de la realidad social. Métodos y técnicas de investigación*. Madrid: Alianza, 1986.

GIDDENS, Anthony, " *Trabajando en sociología: métodos de investigación*" A: Sociología. Madrid: Alianza, 2007.

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