

Qualitative Methods and Field Work

Code: 104248
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2503710 Geography, Environmental Management and Spatial Planning	OB	2	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 established for this course.

Objectives and Contextualisation

The objectives of the course are two:

- a) The knowledge of the process of organization and development of field work in social sciences and, specifically, its application to the research in territorial and urban planning processes.
- b) The knowledge and adequate use of the main qualitative methods of social research: conversation / narration techniques, observation techniques, mixed conversation and observation techniques, visual techniques, cartographic representation techniques and documentary techniques.

Competences

- Apply methods and techniques of quantitative, qualitative and field work analysis in the interpretation of territorial and environmental processes.
- Explain and represent territorial processes using statistical techniques, and graphic, cartographic and geographical information representations.
- Students must be capable of collecting and interpreting relevant data (usually within their area of study) in order to make statements that reflect social, scientific or ethical relevant issues.
- Students must have and understand knowledge of an area of study built on the basis of general secondary education, and while it relies on some advanced textbooks it also includes some aspects coming from the forefront of its field of study.

Learning Outcomes

1. Apply qualitative techniques and methods to social research.
2. Make basic and instrumental use of statistical programs to introduce and identify survey data and for the transformation and analysis of those data.

3. Students must be capable of collecting and interpreting relevant data (usually within their area of study) in order to make statements that reflect social, scientific or ethical relevant issues.
4. Students must have and understand knowledge of an area of study built on the basis of general secondary education, and while it relies on some advanced textbooks it also includes some aspects coming from the forefront of its field of study.
5. Understand the main sources of information and scientific documentation related to regional and environmental processes.

Content

1. The research process

- a) Approach to the investigation. Initial questions.
- b) Objectives/Hypothesis/Research questions
- c) Methodological design of the research
- d) Field work
- e) Analysis of the information
- f) Dissemination of results

2. Basic epistemological elements of the social sciences

- a) Positivism/postpositivism
- b) Hermeneutics
- c) Positionality/reflexivity
- d) Reliability and validity of the investigation

3. Ethical aspects in social science research.

4. Quantitative-qualitative methodology. Methodological triangulation and combination of methods.

5. Qualitative methodology.

a) Conversation techniques

- Individual interview
- Life stories
- Group interview/Focus group
- Interview with key informants

b) Observation techniques

- Observation
- Participant observation

c) Conversation and observation techniques (Walking interviews)

d) Visual techniques

- Photovoice

- Photo-stimulation

e) Cartographic representation techniques

- Mental maps

- Participatory cartography and collective mapping

f) Documentary techniques

6. Practical aspects of the development of field work

7. Analysis of information, preparation of documents and dissemination of results.

Methodology

Lessons on concepts, theories and methods will be complemented with the design of a qualitative fieldwork applied to a case of territorial/urban planning, which will be coordinated with the *Territorial and Environmental Laboratory*. This project will allow the students to work professionally on the problems the investigation and the fieldwork. The study and practise of the qualitative methods requires fieldwork on the geographical areas previously selected for the development of the *Territorial and Environmental Laboratory*.

Reading of basic texts about epistemological reflection, research design and methods will be compulsory.

Process of learning and acquisition of competences will be supervised by the lecturer through individual and/or group tutorials. Lecturers of the courses will be available to the students to solve the doubts and follow the evolution of the mentioned process of learning and acquisition of competences of the students.

All the information used by the lecturer in the theoretical classes and the seminars as well as the different materials elaborated by the students will be available in the Virtual Campus.

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Lessons (theory, concepts and methods)	45	1.8	1, 3
Type: Supervised			
Workshops	15	0.6	1, 5, 4, 3
Type: Autonomous			
Personal study, elaboration of reviews and design of a qualitative fieldwork project	52	2.08	1, 5, 4, 3

Assessment

The evaluation of the course will be based on the continuous evaluation of the process of acquisition of competences by the student and will consist of:

Exam (40% note)

Fieldwork project with qualitative methods. The part of methodology and fieldwork developed within the diagnosis - territorial planning / urban planning - that is coordinated with the *Territorial and Environmental Laboratory* will be evaluated (30%)

Complementary exercise (reviews) and participation in classes/forums (30%)

To pass the course, each of the different parts that are include in the evaluation process must be approved (minimum grade of 5). The student who, presenting the set of practices, the research project and the exam, does not arrive to the minimum grade of 5 will not pass the course. The student that has delivered a part of the materials will be considered as "not evaluable".

This course aims to follow a continuous evaluation method. The completion of this course involves following the delivery schedule marked by the lecturer. It is mandatory the strict compliance of the delivery dates set in the calendar of practices. Late delivery will be penalized with a 20% each day reduction of the grade.

There is a call f or final re-evaluation for those students who have followed the course and have submitted to the final exam.

Students who do not submit to the final exam and do not provide medical proof will be considered "not evaluable".

The copy or plagiarism of material, both in the case of work/practices and in the case of exams, constitute a crime that will be sanctioned with a zero to the activity. In case of recidivism the entire subject will be suspended. A document that reproduces all or a large part of a fellow's document is considered a "copy". "Plagiarism" is the fact of presenting all or part of an author's document as his own, without citing the sources, whether on paper or digitally. See the UAB's documentation on "plagiarism" at: http://wuster.uab.es/web_argumenta_obert/unit_20/sot_2_01.html.

At the time of completion of each evaluation activity, the teacher will inform the students (moodle) of the procedure and date of review of the grades.

Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Assistance and active participation in class	15%	1	0.04	3
Complementary exercises (reviews)	15%	14	0.56	1, 4, 3
Exam	40%	3	0.12	1, 5, 4, 3
Qualitative fieldwork (research project on a territorial/urban planning case)	30%	20	0.8	1, 5, 4, 3, 2

Bibliography

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