

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.
- 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. 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.

3. 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.
4. Understand the main sources of information and scientific documentation related to regional and environmental processes.

Content

1. The research process
 - a) Fases of the research.
 - 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 and photodocumentation

e) Cartographic representation techniques

- Mental maps

- Participatory cartography and collective mapping

f) Documentary techniques

6. Practical aspects of the development of field work

7. CAQDAS (Computer Assisted Qualitative Data Analysis Software)

8. 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.

The activities that could not be done onsite will be adapted to an online format made available through the UAB's virtual tools. Exercises, projects and lectures will be carried out using virtual tools such as tutorials, videos, Teams sessions, etc. Lecturers will ensure that students are able to access these virtual tools, or will offer them feasible alternatives.

Annotation: Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Lessons (theory, concepts and methods)	45	1.8	1, 2
Type: Supervised			
Workshops	15	0.6	1, 4, 3, 2
Type: Autonomous			
Personal study, elaboration of reviews and design of a qualitative fieldwork project	52	2.08	1, 4, 3, 2

Assessment

The evaluation of the subject will be based on the continuous evaluation of the process of acquisition of knowledge and skills by the student and will consist of:

- Exam (40% grade)
- Field work project with qualitative methods. The part corresponding to methodology and field work developed within the diagnosis - case of territorial/urban planning - will be evaluated and coordinated with the Territorial and Environmental Laboratory (30%)
- Complementary exercise and participation in class/forums (30%)

To pass the course, each of the different parts that are part of the assessment process (exam, field work project and complementary exercise) must be passed (minimum of 5). The student will receive the grade of "Not assessable" as long as he/she has not passed the exam or more than 2/3 of the assessment activities.

There is a final recovery call for those students who have followed the course and have taken the final exam. To participate in the student's recovery, the weight of those equivalent to a minimum of 2/3 of the total evaluation must have been previously evaluated in a set of activities.

All recovered activities (including the exam) will have a maximum grade of 5.

In the event that the student makes any irregularity that may lead to a significant variation of the grade in an act of evaluation, this act of evaluation will be rated 0, regardless of the disciplinary process that may be instructed. In the event that several irregularities occur in the acts of evaluation of the same subject, the final grade for this subject will be 0.

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

In case the evaluation activities cannot be done in person, it will adapt its format (keeping the weight) to the possibilities offered by the virtual tools of the UAB and the internet. Homework, activities, class participation and the exam will be done through tutorials, forums, wikis and/or discussions of exercises through Teams, etc. The teacher will ensure that the student can access or offer alternative means that are within their reach.

Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Complementary exercises, workshops and fieldwork	25%	15	0.6	1, 3, 2
Exam	40%	3	0.12	1, 4, 3, 2
Research project on a territorial/urban planning case	35%	20	0.8	1, 4, 3, 2

Bibliography

Ayllón Pino, Bruno (2010), "Consejos prácticos para realizar una buena investigación" a E. Echart Muñoz, R. Cabezas Valencia, J.A. Sotillo Lorenzo (coords.), *Metodología de investigación en cooperación para el desarrollo*. Madrid: Catarata, pp. 57-74.

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Farthing, Stuart (2016), *Research design in urban planning*. Londres: Sage.

Guasch, Oscar (1997), *Observación participante*, Madrid, CIS.

Harper, Douglas (2002) "Talking about pictures: a case for photo elicitation", *Visual Studies* 17(1): pp. 13-26.

Pujadas Muñoz, Juan (1992), *El método biográfico: el uso de las historias de vida en ciencias sociales*, Madrid, Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas.

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Software

CAQDAS (Atlas.ti 9)