



Universitat de Lleida

DEGREE CURRICULUM
**METHODS AND APPROACHES
OF SOCIAL RESEARCH IN
ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT**

Coordination: BONET LLEDOS, JOSE ANTONIO

Academic year 2023-24

Subject's general information

Subject name	METHODS AND APPROACHES OF SOCIAL RESEARCH IN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT			
Code	11379			
Semester	1st Q(SEMESTER) CONTINUED EVALUATION			
Typology	Degree	Course	Character	Modality
	Erasmus Mundus Master's Programme in Mediterranean Forestry and Natural Resources Management (MEDFOR)	1	OPTIONAL	Attendance-based
Course number of credits (ECTS)	2			
Type of activity, credits, and groups	Activity type	PRAULA	TEORIA	
	Number of credits	1.5	0.5	
	Number of groups	1	1	
Coordination	BONET LLEDOS, JOSE ANTONIO			
Department	AGRICULTURAL AND FOREST SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING			
Important information on data processing	Consult this link for more information.			
Language	English			

Teaching staff	E-mail addresses	Credits taught by teacher	Office and hour of attention
BONET LLEDOS, JOSE ANTONIO	jantonio.bonet@udl.cat	1	
DOMINGUEZ TORRES, GLORIA	gloria.dominguez@udl.cat	1	On appointment

Subject's extra information

As it is an introductory course, no previous knowledge on the subject is required.

The course is based in a "learning by doing" approach.

Learning objectives

The involvement of stakeholders in environmental planning and management is being a trend in the last years. The course is addressing the need of the future managers and planners of selecting tools for designing research and actions involving people (sociograms, participatory processes, surveys, interviews, etc). designing small researches and conducting themselves data gathering. The course is introductory, and mainly practical and experiential based in a "learning by doing approach". In this course the students will learn (by doing) how to select and use different approaches, methodologies and techniques to design and conduct social research.

The specific objectives are:

- To understand the importance of the inclusion of elements of social research in the decision making process.
- To gain familiarity with main approaches and some techniques currently being used in research, specially in qualitative methods (interviews, questionnaires, focuss groups, etc).
- To gain a deeper understanding of ethical and quality issues in relation to social research.
- To gain familiarity with the process of designing a social research project

Subject contents

- 1- Introduction to social sciences in the context of research
- 2- Overview of methods and aproaches of social sciences
3. Social Research design. Ethical and quality assessment issues
4. Methodes of data gathering
 4. 1 Interviews
 - 4.2 Questionnaires
 - 4.3.Participant observation
 - 4.4 Group dynamics
 - 4.5 Existing data
 - 4.6 Maping actors: sociograms
5. Overview on qualitative data analysis

Methodology

The course is essentially applied and will be based on exercises tackling the different topics of the course. These will be briefly introduced to the students from a theoretical point of view. The course takes place in a single group in a seminar room and also in the computer room

.Emphasis is placed on the design and conduction of techniques for data gathering. The students are challenged to design and conduct interviews, questionnaires, focus groups or participatory processes and face the difficulties in semi-real conditions.

The program is introductory and no previous knowledge is required.

Development plan

Bloc 1: Introduction to the general context of social sciences (6h)

Introduction to social sciences in the context of research. Overview of methods and approaches of social sciences. Social Research design. Ethical and quality assessment issues

Bloc 2: Methods of data gathering (14 h). Interviews, Questionnaires, Participant observation, Group Dynamics, Existing data, Mapping actors: sociograms

Evaluation

The evaluation is conducted through 3 axes.

- 1) Active attendance: active participation in discussions, exercises, presentations and role plays
- 2) The assessment of the exercises and practices conducted along the course. Every exercise has its own detailed criteria for the assessment (scores, weights, etc).
- 3) There will be also tests about the key theory concepts.

Active attendance: 25%

Exercises: 60%

Tests on main concepts: 15%

Bibliography

Cresswell, J.W (2014) Research design. Qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods approaches. London, SAGE Publication Ltd. 274 pages.

Charmaz, K. (2006) Constructing grounded theory. A practical guide through qualitative analysis. Thousand oaks, California, SAGE Publication Ltd. 208 pages.

Fink, A. (2013). How to conduct surveys. Thousand oaks, California, SAGE Publication Ltd. 173 pages.

Honadle, G (1999). How context matters. How linking environmental context policy to matters people and place. Kumarian press. Connecticut. 224 pages.

Milles, M.; Hubberman, A.M, Saldaña, J. (2020) Qualitative data analysis, a method southbook. IV edition. Thousand oaks, California, SAGE Publication Ltd. 380 pages.

O'LEARY, Z. (2004). The essential guide to doing research. London, SAGE Publication Ltd. 226 pages.

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Yin, K. (2003) Case study research. Design and methods. Thousand oaks, California, SAGE Publication Ltd. 182 pages.

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