

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Course code	Course group	Volume in ECTS credits	Course valid from	Course valid to	Reg. No.
SOC5003	C	6	01.06.2011	01.06.2013	

Course type (compulsory or optional)	Compulsory
Course level (study cycle)	Master
Semester the course is delivered	2nd
Study form (face-to-face or distant)	Face-to face

Course title in Lithuanian

Kiekybinių sociologijos tyrimų problemos

Course title in English

Issues in Quantitative Research Methods in Sociology

Short course annotation in Lithuanian

Šiame kurse studentai gilina į kiekybinių tyrimų metodologijos taikymo sociologiniuose tyrimuose principus ir supažindina su pagrindinių kiekybiniuose tyrimuose taikomų metodų galimybėmis. Siekiant ugdyti teorinius, metodologinius ir analitinius įgūdžius, didelis dėmesys skiriamas individualių arba grupinių tyrimo projektų rengimui, tyrimo instrumento rengimui, duomenų rinkimui ir analizei bei tyrimo kokybės įvertinimui. Kurso pabaigoje studentai rengia tyrimo ataskaitas, kurias pristato paskutinio užsiėmimo metu.

Short course annotation in English

The course provides with a critical analysis of a quantitative research methodology applied in sociological research. The overall goal of the subject is to empower students in applying quantitative approach in research design, implementation, data analysis and interpretation, as well as adequate assessment of own research. These skills will be developed while undertaking a research project on a chosen topic. Final research report will be presented in written, as well as in oral during the class.

Prerequisites for entering the course

Basic knowledge in social research methods is required.

Course aim

The course aims to develop students' competences to identify, assess and address the emerging methodological questions in quantitative research; to develop practical skills in applying quantitative research methods.

Links between study programme outcomes, course outcomes and criteria of learning achievement evaluation

Study programme outcomes	Course outcomes	Criteria of learning achievement evaluation
Competence to prepare and implement research projects on social problems	1.1. To apply methodological principles of quantitative research when addressing different sociological issues.	Students have to define the main principles of quantitative research, and identify the main differences between quantitative and qualitative research.
	1.2. To develop a research design, after choosing a research problem.	Students should be able to formulate research problem and identify research goal, objectives and hypotheses.
Competence to conduct empirical research by applying quantitative and qualitative methods of social research	2.1. To select data collection technique.	Based on research design, students have to choose an appropriate quantitative research method.
	2.2. To develop a valid research instrument.	Students should be able to develop a questionnaire or a list of analytical categories.
	2.3. To identify appropriate sampling technique and define sample size.	Students should be able to distinguish between different sampling techniques and sample sizes.
Competence to process research data with the data analysis software	3.1. To process quantitative research data, while applying SPSS software.	Students should be able to process quantitative research data while

		applying SPSS software.
Competence to analyse and interpret the data of sociological research and prepare research reports; competence to clearly and non-ambiguously provide logical and knowledgeable conclusions for the audiences of specialists and non-specialists.	4.1. To analyze and interpret empirical data while applying statistical methods of data analysis.	Students should be able to apply different statistical methods for univariate, bivariate and multivariate data analysis.
	4.2. To check for research validity, reliability and representativeness.	Students should be able to assess research quality, while applying criteria including validity, reliability and representativeness.
	4.3. To write research report and scientific publication.	Students have to write and present in oral a research report.

Link between course outcomes and content

Course outcomes	Content (topics)
1. To apply methodological principles of quantitative research when addressing different sociological issues.	1. Sociological research from historical perspective. Comparison between quantitative, qualitative and comparative research. 2. Social research methodology: tradition and new developments.
2. To develop a research design, after choosing a research problem.	3. Questions in developing a research design. The role of theory in conducting quantitative research. 4. How to identify a research problem and to develop a research plan?
3. To select data collection technique.	5. Quantitative research methods. Planning and administering survey. Interview techniques. 6. Content analysis in quantitative research. 7. Secondary data analysis. Application of secondary data in social research. Archives of quantitative data.
4. To develop a valid research instrument.	8. Development of a questionnaire. Formulating analytical categories of content analysis.
5. To identify appropriate sampling technique and define sample size.	9. Problems of sampling.
6. To process quantitative research data, while applying SPSS software.	10. Processing of quantitative data. Application of SPSS software.
7. To analyze and interpret empirical data while applying statistical methods of data analysis.	11. Statistical methods for univariate, bivariate and multivariate data analysis and interpretation of data.
8. To check for research validity, reliability and representativeness.	12. Validity, reliability and representativeness in quantitative research. Ethical problems in social research and their solution.
9. To write research report and scientific publication.	13. Principles of quantitative data analysis and their interpretation. 14. Preparation of research report and presentation of research results. 15. Presentation and discussion of research projects prepared by students.

Study (teaching and learning) methods

Teaching methods: lecturing, explaining, consulting; learning methods: discussions, team work, research project work, peer reviews.

Methods of learning achievement assessment

Reading research projects, peer reviews of scientific articles and applied research, observation of oral presentations and discussions.

Distribution of workload for students (contact and independent work hours)

Contact hours: lectures – 30 hours, seminars – 15 hours, group work – 15 hours.
Individual students work: group project – 40 hours, self preparation for seminars, midterm and final exams – 60 hours.
Total: 160 hours

Structure of cumulative score and value of its constituent parts

Midterm exam – 20 %, research project – 30 %, final exam – 50 % of the final grade.

Recommended reference materials

Recommended Reference materials						
No.	Publication year	Authors of publication and title	Publishing house	Number of copies in		
				University library	Self-study rooms	Other libraries
Basic materials						
1.	2007	Davies, M. <i>Doing a Successful Research Project: Using Qualitative or Quantitative Methods.</i>	Palgrave Macmillan	2	-	-
2.	2006	Krippendorff K. <i>Content Analysis: An Introduction to Its Methodology.</i>	Sage	1	1	-
3.	2007	Sue V., Ritter L. <i>Conducting Online Surveys.</i>	Sage	1	1	-
4.	2002	De Vaus D. <i>Surveys in Social Research, 5th Edition.</i>	Routledge.	1	1	-
5.	2002	De Vaus D. <i>Analyzing Social Science Data.</i>	Sage	1	1	-
Supplementary materials						
6.	2004	Gray D. <i>Doing Research in the Real World.</i>	Sage			1
7.	1994	Ragin C. <i>Constructing Social Research: The Unity and Diversity of Method.</i>	Pine Forge Press			1

Course programme designed by

Assoc. Prof. dr. Kristina Juraitė, Department of Public Communications
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