

Academic Year: (2024 / 2025)

Review date: 19-05-2024

Department assigned to the subject: Social Sciences Department

Coordinating teacher: LEON ALFONSO, SANDRA

Type: Electives ECTS Credits : 6.0

Year : 2 Semester : 2

OBJECTIVES

Knowledge:

K-2. Knowledge of the scientific research method and its application in Social Sciences.

K-3. Advanced knowledge of the method of production and communication of a research paper (organization, structure, academic writing process, presentation and publication).

K-4. Knowledge of comparative analysis and historical analysis applied in the main scientific contributions in Social Sciences.

K-5. Knowledge of the internal logic of a scientific publication, examining expository clarity, as well as consistency between theory, analytical strategy, indicators, results and conclusions.

Skills:

S-2. Ability to plan a research program to test general hypotheses.

S-3. Ability to plan, produce and communicate scientific production to a specialized and non-specialized audience in a clear manner.

S-4. Ability to select and apply the method of comparison or historical analysis to the study of a political, economic or social phenomenon.

S-5. Ability to organize and express ideas in a clear and unambiguous way and to support theoretical arguments on a topic based on a critical analysis of literature.

Competencies:

C-2. Be able to develop a complete research design autonomously based on a research question in some field of social sciences.

C-3. Be able to produce a research work that contains an original theoretical and empirical contribution and defend it in a public event before a court.

C-4. Ability to select cases and apply the comparative method and/or historical analysis when providing an empirical answer to a research question within the framework of applied or academic research.

C-5. Ability to identify the strengths and weaknesses of scientific publications on an area of study and to justify the advance in the frontier of knowledge that is intended to be achieved in the research project.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS: PROGRAMME

- Research methods in Social Sciences. Qualitative and quantitative methods and their main challenges.
- The nature and varieties of qualitative methods.
- The comparative method and its use in social and political issues
- Interviews.
- Focus groups.
- Discourse analysis.
- Mixed research methods and their use in contemporary social sciences.
- Practices in mixed methods and considerations in their use.
- The writing process in qualitative and mixed social research.

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LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND METHODOLOGY

Training activities:

AF2 - Practical class

AF3 - Theoretical-practical class

AF5 - Tutorials: the possibility of establishing weekly meetings with the teacher who teaches the subject.

AF6 - Individual student work.

Teaching methodologies:

MD3 - Resolution of practical cases, problems, etc. posed by the teacher individually or in groups

MD4 - Presentation and discussion in class, under the teacher's moderation, of topics related to the content of the subject, as well as practical cases

MD5 - Preparation of work and reports individually or in groups

ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

% end-of-term-examination: 65

% of continuous assessment (assignments, laboratory, practicals...): 35

SE1 - Continuous evaluation (term tests, assignment submissions, class participation and any other activity evaluated during the development of the semester)

SE3 - Final work

The final course grade will be calculated according to the following distribution:

- 10% Participation

- 25% Exercises - Tasks

- 65% Research Design Proposal

BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Silverman, D. Qualitative Research, London: SAGE., 2010

- Simons, H. Case Study Research in Practice, SAGE, London, 2009

- Strauss, A. Qualitative Research for Social Scientists, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. , 1987

- Strauss, A. & Corbin, J. Basics of Qualitative Research: Techniques and Procedures for Developing Grounded Theory (3rd Ed.), Thousand Oaks, London, New Delhi: SAGE Publications., 2008

- Wolcott, H. Writing up Qualitative Research (3rd Ed.), Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE. , 2009