# Research Methods in Psychology 2

## Prof. Antonella Morgano

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to provide students with knowledge of the different strategies for planning and conducting scientific research in psychology. Through reference to the various phases of the research cycle, the main methodological choices open to researchers will be presented and detailed, emphasising the characteristics in each case.

Beginning with the approaches to research (quantitative and qualitative), the course will present the various research designs, respondent and material selection procedures, and ethical issues underlying the practice of research. In addition, the concept of research validity will be addressed in its various interpretations, and how to report search results will be explained.

At the end of the course, students will know the specific research methods of each research approach and the procedures for constructing and analysing the data. Furthermore, they will be able to: identify/recognise the unique elements of scientific research in research articles; code the materials; describe the factorial designs; and present in writing the results of certain types of research. Finally, they will be able to read research articles, grasping the methodological framework.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Unit 1: The role of research in psychology

Unit 2: Quantitative and qualitative and research approach

2.1: Specific aspects of the two research approaches

2.2 Epistemology and methodology

Unit 3: Quantitative research

3.1: Characteristics and specific features of quantitative research

3.2: Research designs for quantitative research

3.3: General features of quantitative research

Unit 4: Experimental designs

4.1: Characterising elements

4.2: Experimental designs between subjects and factorials

4.3: Designs within subjects

Unit 5: Research designs for small samples

5.1: Experimental designs for small samples

5.2: Case study

Unit 6: Correlational designs

6.1: Characterising elements

Unit 7: Longitudinal studies

7.1: Characterising elements

7.2: Panel study

7.3: Trend study

7.4: Retrospective study

Unit 8: Investigation and sampling

8.1: Characteristics of the investigation

8.2: Types and strategies of sampling

Unit 9: Validity in quantitative research

9.1: The validity of quantitative research

9.2: The dangers of quantitative research

Unit 10: Qualitative research and data production

10.1: Characteristics and specific features of qualitative research

10.2: Research methods for qualitative research

10.3: Production of qualitative data

Unit 11: Thematic analysis

11.1: Characterising elements

11.2: Execution methods

11.3: Position of the researcher

Unit 12: Grounded Theory

12.1: Characterising elements

12.2: Collection and production of data

12.3: Data analysis

12.4: Position of the researcher

Unit 13: Interpretative phenomenological analysis

13.1: Characterising elements

13.2: Collection and production of data

13.3: Data analysis

13.4: Position of the researcher

Unit 14: Validity in qualitative research

14.1: The validity of qualitative research

14.2: Validity of the qualitative data construction process

Unit 15: Writing to communicate research results

15.1: Writing as a tool for reflexivity

15.2: How to write up research results

Unit 16: Research reading and evaluation

16.1: Elements and focuses

16.2: Open science

16.3: Systematic review

Unit 17: A comparison between quantitative and qualitative research

***READING LIST***

Materials proposed during thecourse and available on the Blackboard platform: slides, research articles, in-depth videos.

*Reference texts*

D. Howitt - D.Cramer, *Metodologia della ricerca in psicologia,* Italian edition edited by M. Lanz - S. Tagliabue, Pearson, Milano-Torino, 2020 chapters: 1 (only 1.3, 1.4), 4 (only 4.1, 4.2, 4.3), 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 (only 12.5, 12.6), 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22. For units 15 and 16 the online materials of the text will be used. Specific indications will be provided at the beginning of the course and on Blackboard.

The provision of a handout via Educatt is also expected.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course is divided into classroom lectures and practical exercises, and remote workshop teaching. The workshop allows students to put their theoretical lessons into practice by working on the data construction, analysis and interpretation of results phase, and written communication of a quantitative and qualitative research project.

The workshop dates will be communicated at the beginning of the course.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

A written exam, with the possibility, at the request of the Exam Commission and/or the student, of a more in-depth supplementary oral exam to be carried out according to the procedures established by the Commission.

The written exam is divided into two parts: "part A", consisting of 30 multiple-choice questions; "Part B", consisting of 3 research case studies.

In "part A" the questions will be aimed at verifying the student's basic knowledge of and quantitative and qualitative research; the aspects, methods and validity of scientific research.

In "Part B", students' critical abilities will be assessed through the analysis of research case studies; they will have to demonstrate an ability to identify the characterising elements of the research, with particular attention to the logic of quantitative and qualitative research. Furthermore, one research case study will focus on writing skills, i.e. the ability to report the results of quantitative and qualitative research.

Both parts will focus on the contents presented and learned during lectures and in the workshop. In order to pass the exam, students must receive a sufficient mark out of thirty for each part. The final mark is based on the average of the marks obtained in the two parts.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

The course assumes knowledge of the Methodology of Psychological Research 1 course contents (phases of the research cycle, variables, measurement, tools for data collection, scientific communication, keynotes on descriptive statistics, use of Excel, …).

Further information can be found on the lecturers’ webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG, or on the Faculty notice board.