## **Educational research and experimentation**

## Prof. Luisa de Vita

***Text under revision. Not yet approved by academic staff.***

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

The course aims to provide students with the conceptual and procedural tools of research in the educational and training fields, in particular experimental research. In addition, a specific training module will be dedicated to research in the field of educational services for the 0-3-year age group, to provide students with the basic notions on applied research for this specific education sector.

***Knowledge and understanding***

At the end of the workshop, students will be able to:

* know the structure of the research process and its main phases;
* use the subject-specific language;
* use detection tools to be applied in educational contexts/services with particular reference to those targeted to children;
* critically describe and understand research reports.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course addresses the following contents:

- Research in the educational field: problems, characteristics, functions.

- Methodology of educational experimentation.

- Construction of the theoretical framework of the research, elaboration of the problem framework and definition of the hypotheses.

- Qualitative and quantitative methods.

- Experimental designs and research phases.

- Data collection techniques and tools.

- Interpretation and publication of results. Verification and evaluation of the experiment.

Great emphasis will be given to early childhood services and contexts in the presentation of the various types of research, in the phases of the research process, in the detection tools, and the related examples. The topics will be supplemented by examples and presentations of concrete cases.

***READING LIST***

- Renata Viganò, *Pedagogia e sperimentazione. Metodi e strumenti per la ricerca educativa,* Vita e Pensiero, Milan, 2002, 2nd ed.

- F. Zaninelli, *Sperimentando lo zero-sei. Ricerca e formazione a Parma*, Bergamo: Junior\*, 2019

\*Upon request, different textbooks relating to empirical research conducted in other types of educational services may be recommended.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course involves the use of multiple and complementary teaching strategies: from lectures to participatory lessons, to guided practical activities; through these, in particular, students will have the opportunity to experiment in the construction of one or more survey tools through their active involvement.

The teaching material used during the lessons will be made available to students through the Blackboard platform.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The final assessment will consist of an oral exam aimed at verifying the students’ level of knowledge, application skills and (initial) methodological skills relating to the subject.

During the oral exam, students will have to:

* be able to make connections also starting from the cases proposed by the texts,
* possess critical and argumentative skills in rereading, rework and present the contents learnt.

The ability to problematise what has been studied and to establish connections with the professional contexts of reference will be particularly appreciated. The assigment of the final mark will take into account the correctness and quality of the answers, the use of subject-specific language, and argumentative skills.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

The course is introductory and there are no content-related prerequisites.

Students are required to regularly consult the information tools used for the course (Blackboard), where notices and updates will be posted from time to time.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at <http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG> or on the Faculty notice board