## ***. – Qualitative Research Methods for the Agri-food System***

## ***Prof. Guendalina Graffigna***

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

The course aims to offer an overview on the main methods and instruments of Qualitative Research applied to the Agrifood System. In particular, the course will highlight the main research designs and approaches to study consumers’ attitudes towards food consumption and to support the generation of intelligence related to individual behaviours within the Agrifood System. The course will offer practical occasion to experiment the methodological and technical principles of qualitative research on real case study.

The course intends support students in acquiring introductory knowledge and skills related to qualitative methods and techniques applied to the study of food choices and behaviours and to sustain decision making in the Agrifood System. In particular, at the end of the course, students are expected to acquire the skills and competences to designing qualitative research projects aimed at (1) generate knowledge on food choices and consumptions behaviours (2) sustaining creative decision making by generating insight on new future consumption trends in the field.

More into details, the Course has the following objectives

***Knowledge and understanding***

At the end of the course, the student will be able to know and understand:

1. the main methods and design of applied psycho-social research

2. the main qualitative research techniques

***Applying knowledge and understanding***

At the end of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify the main situations which require the application of qualitative methods to the study of consumption trends and behaviors

2.correctly select among the different designs, methods and techniques for achieving the stated research objectives

***Making judgements***

At the end of the course, the student will be able to:

1. recognize the research questions which require a qualitative or quantitative psycho-social based approach to the analysis of consumer food behaviours

2. select among the main designs models and psycho-social approaches to produce knowledge on food consumption behaviours

***Communication skills***

At the end of the course, the student will be able to:

1. mastering the technical language in describing the processes and requirement of rigourous consumer based research

2. argument with adequate confidence for the choice of one specific methodological approach and analysis model to assess food consumption behaviours

***Learning skills***

At the end of the course, the student will be able to:

1.autonomously critically assess one own level of knowledge and skills in the design of psycho-social researches for intelligence on food consumption behaviours

2. identify adequate sources to deepen and improve their knowledge about qualitative and quantitative methodologies applied to food consumption research

***COURSE CONTENT***

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| Introduction to psycho-social research: the difference between qualitative and quantitative methods to study food consumption behaviours; principle of project design | 1.0 |
| Basic of qualitative interview | 1.0 |
| Basic of survey questionnaires | 1.0 |
| Basic of focus groups and observations | 0.5 |
| Basic of qualitative data analysis and reporting | 0.5 |
| Sampling methods | 0.5 |
| Qualitative research for marketing decision making:  a taxonomy of research design and case of application | 0.5 |

***READING LIST***

G. GRAFFIGNA, Course Guidelines, 2022.

Mariampolsky Hy, Qualitative Marketing Research: A Comprehensive Guide. Sage, 2001

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course will adopt a highly experiential and interactive didactic approach.

Moment of frontal lecturing will alternate with discussion of case histories and exercises in class and at distance under the supervision of the Professor

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

A written exam will be proposed consisting in a research problem related to the Agrifood System to be solved with the design of a qualitative research. Students will be required to briefly outline the research design which they consider the most appropriate to answer to the problem proposed. The will have to describe the research design in terms of: knowledge objectives, sampling, data collection techniques, expected results. The will also have to motivate their methodological choices.

The assignment will be evaluated in terms of appropriateness of the methodological and technical choices made, completeness of the design description, coherence among the methodological and technical choice made in the research design. Critical reflection on the methodological approaches used in the assignment will be valued.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

***OFFICE HOURS FOR STUDENTS***

Professor Guendalina Graffigna will receive students after classes or by appointment