Interview and Questionnaire Methods and Techniques

## Prof. Sara Alfieri; Prof. MIchele Ivaldi; Prof. Mariarosaria Savarese; Prof. Anna Zinola

COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

*Knowledge and understanding*

The course aims to provide students with basic knowledge and skills in psychosocial research, with particular reference to two investigation tools typical of qualitative and quantitative research approaches: the interview and the questionnaire.

*Ability to apply knowledge and understanding*

At the end of the course, students will be able to design and apply interviews and questionnaires, and make methodological choices consistent with each tool.

Specifically, at the end of the course, students will be able to:

- design and carry out a psychosocial research interview and questionnaire;

- apply data collection tools in psychosocial research situations;

- analyse the data produced through these tools;

- communicate the results deriving from the data analysis to both an expert and the “lay” public.

COURSE CONTENT

The course is divided into two main modules: MODULE 1) Interview theory and techniques; MODULE 2) Questionnaire theory and techniques. The course contents are articulated as follows:

* Unit 0: Background and introduction to the differences between research by paradigms and applied research

Module 1: Interview theory and techniques

* Unit 1.1: Introduction to the interview: basic theoretical and methodological characteristics
* Unit 1.2: Rationale behind the interview: theory and applications
* Unit 1.3: The interview outline: theory and applications
* Unit 1.4: Conducting the interview: communicative-relational theory and techniques
* Unit 1.5: Data analysis and communication of the interview results: theories and ideas for practice

Module 2: Questionnaire theory and techniques

* Unit 2.1: Introduction to the questionnaire: basic theoretical and methodological characteristics
* Unit 2.2: Rationale behind the questionnaire: theory and applications
* Unit 2.3: The questionnaire outline: theory and applications
* Unit 2.4: Questionnaire development: from the pilot phase to fieldwork
* Unit 2.5: Analysis of questionnaire data: theories and ideas for practice
* Unit 2.6: Communication of results

READING LIST

Reading list for the path based on the lecture contents

Students will prepare themselves by studying the lecture notes, slides and supplementary materials published on the Blackboard platform, as well as by executing the ongoing practical exercises on the lecture contents.

Reading list for the text-based path

Students will prepare by studying slides, supplementary materials posted on the Blackboard platform and the study of the following compulsory texts:

S. Tusini, *La ricerca come relazione – l’intervista nelle scienze sociali,* F. Angeli, Milan, 2006.

M. Caselli, *Indagare col questionario,* Vita e Pensiero, Milan, 2007, chaps. 4, 5, 6, 8.

Students can also study more in depth by consulting the following optional texts:

V.L. Zammuner, *Tecniche dell'intervista e del questionario,* Il Mulino.

Corbetta, *Metodologia e tecniche della ricerca sociale,* Il Mulino, chap. 2.

TEACHING METHOD

The course will use a highly interactive teaching approach that will alternate between lectures, practical exercises supervised by the lecturer, and the discussion of case histories.

ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

An oral interview that will focus on the knowledge and methodological skills acquired by students regarding the conception, design and implementation of the interview and questionnaire tools. Students will have to demonstrate their ability to orient themselves among the basic topics and issues discussed in the lectures, with particular attention to the practical exercises. Within this context, emphasis will be placed on the course readings (compulsory study texts), to be completed in a timely manner, although favouring the relevant aspects in the short course followed. The assessment will focus on the relevance of the student's answers, their appropriate use of the specific terminology, the reasoned and coherent structuring of their discourse, and their ability to identify conceptual links and open questions.

Specifically, students must show their ability to correctly orient themselves between the interview and questionnaire selection criteria.

NOTES AND PREREQUISITES

There are no prerequisites for attending the course, but it is strongly recommended to have followed and taken the first-year methodology course. An interest and intellectual curiosity in research and a willingness to work in a participatory perspective are also assumed.

Should the current Covid-19 health emergency not allow face-to-face teaching, remote teaching will be carried out following procedures that will be communicated in good time to students.

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.