

COURSE TITLE: Mixed Methods Design (Martina Cvajner, 10 hours - 2 cfu)

PERIOD: December 2024

COURSE CONTENTS, OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

Description of activity and topics:

The course will provide a brief introduction to mixed methods research. Students will learn how rigorous qualitative and quantitative data can be integrated to answer complex research questions.

Mixed methods approaches are becoming increasingly common across different research areas. However, most research methods courses focus on either qualitative or quantitative methods, and rarely address how to meaningfully integrate the two. In this course, students will explore the epistemological and methodological issues involved in conducting mixed methods research. Students will acquire the skills to critique mixed-method research designs and will design their own mixed methods study in an area of interest to them. Both students who are primarily trained in quantitative methods and those primarily trained in qualitative methods will benefit from this course, and opportunities will be provided for students to learn from one another's expertise. By the end of the course, students can expect to be able to a) identify whether a mixed methods design is appropriate for their research problem; and b) identify learning gaps to be addressed through future advanced qualitative, quantitative and/or mixed methods courses.

Topics to be covered include:

- Review of the key strengths and limitations of monomethod (qualitative and quantitative) designs
- Strengths and limitations of mixed methods approaches in cognitive sciences
- Theoretical and paradigm issues in mixed methods research
- Mixed methods research questions and study designs
- Mixed methods approaches to sampling, data collection and data analysis

And, possibly:

- Quality appraisal in mixed methods research
- Writing and publishing mixed methods research

Specific learning objectives (i.e. specific knowledge and skills that the participants in the activity will acquire):

At the completion of this course students should be able to:

- Understand mixed methods research
- Appreciate the strengths and limitations of qualitative and quantitative data
- Understand the intent, procedures, advantages, and challenges of some basic mixed methods designs
- Get acquainted with some basic mixed methods designs

DUBLIN DESCRIPTORS (Indicate the learning objective(s) that the activity aims to achieve, exercise and/or consolidate)

- systematic understanding of a field of study and mastery of the skills and methods of research associated with that field;
- ability to conceive, design, implement and adapt a substantial process of research with scholarly integrity;
- ability to make a contribution through original research that extends the frontier of knowledge by developing a substantial body of work, some of which merits national or international refereed publication;
- ability to critically analyse, evaluate and synthesise new and complex ideas;
- ability to communicate with their peers, the larger scholarly community and with society in general about their areas of expertise;
- ability to promote, within academic and professional contexts, technological, social or cultural advancement in a knowledge based society;

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS (Indicate any specific knowledge and/or skills that the student must have in order to participate in the activity)

None in particular. A course in qualitative or quantitative methods (or both) will advantage the participants.

TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS AND ACTIVITIES

Teaching will be highly interactive in a seminar-type manner. The teacher will distribute some readings that students will be expected to discuss in class.

ASSESSMENT OF THE ACHIEVEMENT OF LEARNING OBJECTIVES (Possibly an activity carried out independently by the student functional to his/her research activity)

Students will be expected to draft a research design addressing either their research or a research interest they have applying a mixed methods research design (or possibly stating why the afore mentioned is not suitable) . The work will be presented and discussed in class.

BIBLIOGRAPHY /STUDY MATERIALS (video-lessons, etc.) (Specificare se il materiale va letto, visionato, etc. prima degli incontri)

Innovation in mixed methods research, Cheryl N. Poth - Sage, 2018.

Further readings will be prepared and shared with the students prior to the course start.