

26146 - Qualitative Research Methods and Techniques Applied to Social Work

Syllabus Information

Academic Year: 2020/21

Subject: 26146 - Qualitative Research Methods and Techniques Applied to Social Work

Faculty / School: 108 - Facultad de Ciencias Sociales y del Trabajo

Degree: 274 - Degree in Social Work

ECTS: 5.0

Year: 3

Semester: Second semester

Subject Type: Optional

Module: ---

1. General information

1.1. Aims of the course

In line with the objectives of the degree, this subject aims to contribute to the student having tools for a broad understanding of social processes and phenomena, in such a way that:

- a) To discover and justify the need to resort to qualitative methodology for the analysis of certain social realities.
- b) To know and apply qualitative social research techniques and instruments.

1.2. Context and importance of this course in the degree

This optional subject taught in the second semester is integrated into Module A of the General Plan of Degree, "Social work: concepts, methods, theories and application", and specifically in the subject A4 called "Research, diagnosis and evaluation in Social Work". This supposes that the contents of "Methods and techniques of qualitative research applied to Social Work" are related to those of "Research methods and techniques in Social Work", which is taught as compulsory in the second year, first semester. Start in qualitative techniques. It implies, therefore, already possessing certain knowledge of introductory aspects of research in general. Likewise, the contents of the two aforementioned subjects are related to the objectives set in the subject "Research Practicum" that is taught in the third year, second semester. The realization of the latter requires, therefore, of the previously acquired knowledge on research methods and techniques. Similar situation occurs with the contribution of what has been learned in this subject for the elaboration of the Final Degree Project.

1.3. Recommendations to take this course

The students already studied in the second year the subject of? Methods and techniques of social research in Social Work. The student who has chosen to study this elective is therefore assumed to have a special interest for broadening and deepening in contents referring to social research, and in particular, those referring to the methodology and qualitative instruments. You should also be motivated to know how they can know social realities from a qualitative approach with which later as a professional you will meet and who should give adequate answers.

It is recalled that the main protagonist of the process is the student; your involvement and effort are essential for success. If you follow the program with these recommendations, it will be much easier to face the readings and activities raised.

2. Learning goals

2.1. Competences

A competence (the demonstrated ability to use knowledge and skills, according to the European Commission) has

an infinite development perspective, therefore, each subject develops part of the resources necessary for training in various competitions. In accordance with the provisions of the verification report of the Degree, initial project of the degree, this subject will develop knowledge in line with the following skills:

- a) Apply the different qualitative research methods throughout its various phases.
- b) Understand the relationship between research, diagnosis, evaluation and practice of social work, from the perspective qualitative.
- c) Use qualitative methods and techniques to assess the needs, capacities, opportunities and risks of users, groups and communities, incorporating the participation of individuals or groups in the process interested.
- d) Manage qualitative information from a variety of sources.

2.2.Learning goals

The / the student, to pass this subject, must demonstrate the following results, in line with the content of the Grade Memory: 1) Understand the importance and the need to resort to the scientific perspective and to research. 2) Identify the characteristics and the process of the qualitative approach of social research. 3) Design and apply the qualitative techniques and instruments of social research. 4) Manage qualitative information from a variety of sources.

2.3.Importance of learning goals

The study of social realities from a qualitative perspective is key for the Social Work professional. The main contributions of the subject are summarized in two main areas: a) the application of the qualitative methodology in the diagnosis of social problems and needs and in the evaluation of the intervention. b) the importance of knowing the subjects in the social research for the researcher will have been grasped and groups under study and having them not only as a source of information but also as active agents in the investigation

3.Assessment (1st and 2nd call)

3.1.Assessment tasks (description of tasks, marking system and assessment criteria)

The student must demonstrate that he has achieved the expected learning results through different evaluation activities.

According to the Learning Standards Regulation, the student has the possibility to choose between two ways to demonstrate that he has achieved the expected learning results:

A- Through a global evaluation, to be held on the official dates that are published, within the period established by the Governing Council in the academic calendar for this course.

B-Through continuous evaluation, as it is understood in the regulations of the University of Zaragoza: "... the evaluation through a set of systematic and regular tests distributed throughout the teaching period, as small frequent exams, portfolios, reports, works, projects, actions, practical realizations or any other form of evaluable evidence".

The students must communicate to the teaching staff the evaluation path they choose in the first week of teaching.

GLOBAL ASSESSMENT. The written test will be held on the official dates within the period established by the Governing Council in the academic calendar for this course. Taking into account the distribution of credits-activities, the qualification of the subject attending this evaluation will be:

- 50% through a written test corresponding to the basic and fundamental contents of the subject developed in the activities-hours Type 1. This test will be a test type test and / or a test of development. It will be held on the day indicated in the official announcements.
- 25% through a written test corresponding to the contents developed in the hours Type 2. This test will consist of a practical realization composed of several questions about a qualitative research and / or the resolution of a practical / theoretical assumption raised.
- 25% through the realization of a work corresponding to the contents / activities developed in the hours Type 6. In the program of the subject (available to students through the add from the first week of teaching) will specify the approach, characteristics and deadlines relative to the work cited.

CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT. To opt for this evaluation route, it is required to assiduously attend the Type 1, the Type 2 and the Type 6 sessions. Taking into account the distribution of credits-activities, the qualification of the continuous evaluation will be carried out in the following way :

- 50% through two written tests corresponding to the contents developed in the hours Type 1. Both tests will be test type tests and / or development tests. We will proceed to perform the arithmetic mean of both.
- 25% through weekly practical achievements corresponding to the contents developed in the hours Type 2 (10%) and through the realization of two practical / theoretical assessable assumptions (15%).
- 25% through the completion of a work corresponding to the contents / activities developed in the hours Type 6. In the program of the subject (available to students through the Add from the first week of teaching) the approach, characteristics and deadlines related to work.

The final grade will consist of the average of the grades obtained in each of the different teaching activities, being necessary and essential a minimum grade of 4 in each part (T1, T2 and T6), according to the weighting criteria that have been described .

Evaluation criteria:

Test type tests. The final grade will be obtained by the following formula:

C: $(A - (E / (n-1)) N) \times 10$

A: number of hits

E: number of errors

n: number of response alternatives

N: total number of items

In accordance with article 30 of the Rules for the Evaluation of Learning, the use of any irregular practice in the performance of the different exercises and / or tests will imply a qualification of failure in the corresponding exercise or test.

Partial grades from one course to another are not saved.

In the event that the suspension of classroom teaching activities occurs, the changes that should be made will be introduced through addenda as has been done in the 2019-2020 academic year, following the instructions established by the University authorities.

4. Methodology, learning tasks, syllabus and resources

4.1. Methodological overview

This subject has a theoretical and applied orientation that is required both for its contents and for the utility it has for social work. The learning process is active: the students are the protagonists.

The faculty will provide different elements to facilitate learning, including those provided through the course of the subject in the ADD.

4.2. Learning tasks

TEACHING ACTIVITIES	STUDENT HOURS
Type 1 Master class	25
Type 2 Problems and cases	12.5
Type 6 Practical work	12.5
Type 7 Self-employment student	70
Type 8 Overcoming of test	5
Total	125

Type 1 activities will basically consist of expository classes with the group as a whole, where the theoretical foundations of the subject will be exposed and worked, basically through presentations and readings that will be the content to be learned and understood.

The type 2 teaching activities will involve a more practical approach to the subject. They will be closely connected with the contents seen in the T1 activities. Qualitative research will be reviewed, practical research cases will be resolved through exchanges of ideas, debates, individual and group work on texts, data, current research, with half the group.

The type 6 activity will consist of an individual or group work, which will take place in the first week of class. When structured around the teacher's follow-up, and with the availability of a specific schedule, this activity is included within the denomination of "supervised work".

In the event that the suspension of classroom teaching activities occurs, the changes that should be made will be introduced through addenda as has been done in the 2019-2020 academic year, following the instructions established by the University authorities.

4.3.Syllabus

First module

- 1.- Strategies and qualitative practices of social research. Application to Social Work
- 2.- Group techniques in qualitative research
- 3.- The methodological design of the Research-Action-Participation. Dialogical instruments
- 4.- The analysis of information in qualitative research (textual and visual material)

Second module

- 5.- The problems of objectivity in social research. The emic vision and the ethical vision
- 6.- Fieldwork: the interview
- 7.- Observation in qualitative research
8. The genealogical method
- 9.- Life stories

4.4.Course planning and calendar

Detailed scheduling of learning activities will be provided at the beginning of the teaching period, according with the principles already exposed, adapting to the calendar and schedules. The activities and key dates will be adjusted to the calendar and schedules established by the decanal team and published in the

center. On the activities that correspond to the requirements of the particular methodology applied in the subject (such such as work presentation, classroom presentations, etc.), the teachers will duly inform the students on the established dates and conditions. In this case, it must be taken into account that the priority channel of Information and communication will be through the open course in the ADD.

The organization and development of face-to-face teaching will be subject to the planning of the spaces that the center according to the instructions of the health and academic authorities

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4.5.Bibliography and recommended resources