



UNIVERSIDADE LUSÍADA
LISBOA

Course Unit Program
Social Research Methods and Techniques

Academic Year 2023/2024

1. Organic Unit

Higher Institute of Social Work

2. Course

SOCIAL WORK

3. Cycle

1st

4. Course Unit

Social Research Methods and Techniques (L4415)

5. Scientific Area

6. Curricular Year

2nd

7. Type of Curricular Unit / Semester

1st Semester



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8. Class type and workload (work time)

Theoretical classes:	30,00
Practical classes:	
Theoretical-Practical Classes	
Tutorial Guidance:	20,00

9. ECTS Credits

6,00

10. Scientific Area Coordinator

11. Regent

Prof. Doutora VANDA SOFIA BRAZ RAMALHO

12. Assistants

13. Teaching Language

Portuguese

14. General Objectives

To train students to know, understand and use scientific research methodologies, in the context of Social Sciences in general and Social Work in particular.

15. Specific Objectives

To make known the epistemological, theoretical and operative assumptions of the construction of scientific knowledge.

Foster interest in a systematic approach to social reality, based on scientific evidence, reflectiveness and rigor.

Initiate students in the steps and procedures of research in Social Sciences.

Make known the different methodologies and techniques of social research and their selection criteria.

Train students for scientific writing.

16. Skills to be acquired

- Develop a study topic and define research goals.
- Carry out a bibliographical research.
- Write a text following the rules of scientific writing.
- Use models and theoretical concepts in guiding empirical research.
- Define an analysis model integrating the concepts and variables of work.
- Choose, use and adapt methodologies according to research goals and different contexts and resources.



17. Teaching Methodology

The curricular unit will be taught using theoretical expositions and practical exercises, training the steps of the research process, as well as allowing contact with different data collection techniques. Throughout the semester, a project for social research will be built.

18. Course Unit Program

I. SOCIAL RESEARCH, SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIETY

- 1.1. Scientific knowledge and social research: Nature, goals and method
- 1.2. Scientific research in social work: An applied view
- 1.3. Ethics in Social Work research: A compromised view

II. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE METHODS

- 2.1. The epistemological problems of Social Sciences: The paradigm debate
- 2.2. Deductive and inductive perspectives and quantitative and qualitative methodologies
- 2.3. Methodological integration in contemporary social sciences
- 2.4. The main types of social research

III. STEPS OF THE RESEARCH PROCESS

- 3.1. Synthesis of acts and steps of scientific procedure in Social Sciences: The linear and cyclic models
- 3.2. Theme, starting question or research questions
- 3.3. Exploration, bibliographic research and scientific writing
- 3.4. The problematic, the study object and the research goals
- 3.5. Building the analysis model:
 - 3.5.1. Theory and concepts in the problematization
 - 3.5.2. From defining concepts (variables) and indicators to building hypotheses
 - 3.5.3. Borrowed and Produced Theorizing
- 3.6. Observation and data collection: from the field and analysis units to collection tools
- 3.7. Selection criteria for data collection tools
- 3.8. Data analysis and conclusions: contributions to scientific knowledge

IV. SOCIAL INVESTIGATION TECHNIQUES

- 4.1. The different techniques for collecting data in social research: observation, secondary and documental data, surveys, scales and different types of interviews
- 4.2. Differences, advantages and limits of each research technique

19. Assessment Methods

Taking into account the theoretical-practical nature of the contents and the need for training skills in Social Research, the evaluation will be done through 2 written group works corresponding to a research project carried out in two evaluation moments.



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20. Didactic Resources

PC/Datashow/Power Point/Internet
Support bibliography
Paper and pens

21. Sustainability Objectives

Social research methods and techniques contribute to the achievement of SDG30 (UN). The SDGs most related to this curricular unit are:

- 1- No poverty
- 4- Quality Education
- 10- Reduce Inequalities

22. Keywords

Social Research
Methods
Techniques



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23. Main Bibliography

Author(s): Campenhoudt Luc Van; Marquet, Jacques e Quivy, Raymond
Title: Manual de Investigação em Ciências Sociais
Edition: 6^a Year: 2019
Local: Lisboa
Publisher: Gradiva

Author(s): Coutinho, Clara Pereira
Title: Metodologia de Investigação em Ciências Sociais e Humanas
Edition: 2^a Year: 2022
Local: Coimbra
Publisher: Edições Almedina

Author(s): Gauthier, Benoît (Dir.)
Title: Investigação Social. Da Problemática à colheita de dados
Edition: 1^a Year: 2003
Local: Loures
Publisher: LUSOCIÊNCIA

24. Complementary Bibliography

Author(s): Vilelas, José
Title: Investigação o processo de construção do conhecimento
Edition: 3^a Year: 2020
Local: Lisboa
Publisher: Edições Sílabo

Author(s): Guerra, Isabel
Title: Pesquisa Qualitativa e Análise de Conteúdo
Edition: 1^a Year: 2006
Local: Estoril
Publisher: PRINCIPIA



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Ficha técnica MIP / MIP Datasheet	
Título / Title	Course Unit Program 'MÉTODOS E TÉCNICAS DE INVESTIGAÇÃO SOCIAL': Academic Year 2023/2024
Autor / Author	Prof. Doutora VANDA SOFIA BRAZ RAMALHO
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Colaborador(es) / Colaborator(s)	-
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