UNIVERSIDADE LUSÍADA
LISBOA

Course Unit Program
Social Research Methods and Techniques

Academic Year 2026/2027

1. Organic Unit

Higher Institute of Social Work

2. Course

SOCIAL WORK

3. Cycle

1st

4. Course Unit

Social Research Methods and Techniques (L4513)

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. Doutor MICHEL GUSTAVE JOSEPH BINET

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.

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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: The diverse observation methods, secondary and documental data, surveys, scales and different types of interviews
4.2. Differences, advantages and limits of each research technique

19. Assessment Methods

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-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 individual works, corresponding to a research project carried out in two evaluation moments.
-Students' participation throughout the semester in initiatives and events conducted by the school will be taken into account within the scope of continuous assessment, in accordance with the Assessment Regulations.

20. Didactic Resources

PC/Datashow/Power Point/Internet
Support bibliography
Bibliographic database, specialized in the area of Methodological Studies (Zotero)
Prezi Presentations

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:	6ª	Year:	2019
Local:	Lisboa		
Publisher:	Gradiva		
ISBN Code:			

Author(s):	Coutinho, Clara Pereira		
Title:	Metodologia de Investigação em Ciências Sociais e Humanas : Teoria e Prática		
Edition:	1ª	Year:	2011
Local:	Coimbra		
Publisher:	Edições Almedina		
ISBN Code:			

Author(s):	Margaret Alston et al. (eds)		
Title:	Handbook of Research Methods in Social Work		
Edition:		Year:	2025
Local:	Cheltenham / Northampton		
Publisher:	Edward Elgar		
ISBN Code:			

24. Complementary Bibliography

Author(s):	Samuel Faulkner & Cynthia Faulkner		
Title:	Research Methods for Social Workers : A Practice-Based Approach		
Edition:	4	Year:	2025
Local:	Oxford		
Publisher:	Oxford University Press		
ISBN Code:			

Author(s):	Blaikie, Norman		
Title:	Designing Social Research		
Edition:		Year:	2000
Local:	Cambridge		
Publisher:	Polity Press		

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Autor / Author	Prof. Doutor MICHEL GUSTAVE JOSEPH BINET
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