

Course name Methodology of Social Sciences	ECTS code 02.06-S2-EN-MOSC
Provider University of Opole / Faculty of Social Sciences / Institute of Sociology	
Year of the study programme, semester, academic year: 1. year, 1. semester, 2018/2019	
Name of the instructor(s) & email address: Michał Wanke, michal.wanke@uni.opole.pl <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michał Wanke (lectures, classes) 	
Forms of instruction / forms of classroom activity and ECTS credit points in relation to student's duties	ECTS credits: 6
A. Forms of instruction and the number of hours: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lecture (30h) • class (30h) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • participation in lectures: 15h • participation in laboratories: 30h • preparation to classes: 30h • individual analysis: 60h • office hours: 15h
B. Classroom activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lecture and laboratory work in classroom • individual analysis in laboratory 	
Total 150h = 6 ECTS	
Course status: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • obligatory 	Language of instruction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English
Methods of instruction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lectures with presentation and discussion • Exercises – individual project based – developing the research proposal • Office hours to consult the projects. 	Forms of crediting and basic criteria of evaluation or examination requirements.
	Form of credit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: Exam (test based in the first term, oral in the second term) • Lab: Development of individual research proposal (within the framework of a per-defined form)
	B. Forms of evaluation: <p>1. Lecture: The exam is evaluated on a scale – one point is awarded for one correct answer (for options available). There is an open ended question for 3 points too.</p> <p>2. Exercises: The research proposal is developed during the classes and is evaluated within different categories corresponding to the topics of the course.</p>
	C. Basic criteria: Exam: According to the scale of the test: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satisfactory if the student grasps the minimum of the course content. • Good if the student masters majority of the content of the course. • Very good is the student knows almost all of the content of the course. In case of the re-take examination: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satisfactory if the student is able to refer to the basic concepts of the course content. • Good if the student can discuss majority of the content of

the course.

- Very good is the student is able to elaborate on most of the issues of the content of the course.

Exercises:

- *Satisfactory if the student takes part in the classes and delivers a research proposal with minimum information.*
- *Good if the student contributes to the class discussion and submits an elaborate research proposal.*
- *Very good if the student participates in the classes with a meaningful input to the discussions and turns in an elaborate, innovative, critical and insightful research proposal.*

Entry requirements: *The aim of the course is to introduce and integrate all the students of the 1st semester of the programme, hence there are no entry requirements.*

Course objectives:

The aim of the course is to provide students with an understanding of the principles and skills needed to design and conduct social research. Students should know to plan methods strategies and realize it. Philosophical discussions underlying the empirical inquiry are introduced. Qualitative and quantitative methods and techniques are taught. During the course student is getting to know the basic methods of social research in their practical application, acquires knowledge and skills in conceptualizing the research, selecting methods, preparing research tools, organizing and conducting empirical research, elaborating and analyzing results. As a result of the course student becomes convicted on the fundamental importance of carrying out social research appropriately, in accordance with determined principles and regulations, in particular with ethical principles.

Course content:

A. Lectures:

- Approaching Reality: Engaging the Empirical
- Research Design and Planning
- Methods of Data Collection
- Qualitative Research Methods – Field Research
- Quantitative Research Methods – Surveys
- Case Study and Desk Research
- Conducting Research
- Strategies for Data Analysis
- Representing and Disseminating Research

B. Exercises:

- Ontological and epistemological discussions and conceptualization of the research process
- Planning a research project
- Survey of methods of data collection in sociology
- Inductive inquiry: data grounded logic of sociological research
- Deductive hypothesis testing
- Designing a case study or desk research
- Interviewing
- Ethical issues of sociological research
- The impact of sociological research

Reading list*

A. Obligatory reading (to get a credit):

Selection:

Ken Plummer, Sociology the Basics, ch. 6

Earl Babbie, The Practice of Social Research, ch. 4

Clive Seale, Researching Society and Culture, ch. 1 – 11

Andrew Sayer, Method in Social Science - A Realist Approach, ch. 1

Chava Frankfort-Nachmias, Anna Leon-Guerrero, Social Statistics for a Diverse Society

Jack Levin, James Alan Fox,, David Forde, Elementary Statistics in Social Research

B. Supplementary reading

In full:

Clive Seale, Researching Society and Culture

Effects	Forms of evaluation	Reference to the programme effects
<p>Knowledge</p> <p>Student:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is aware of the position of sociology among other social sciences and science in general. • Knows different methodological approaches to social reality and methods within these different theoretical paradigms with special emphasis on qualitative-quantitative distinction and inductive-deductive division. • Understands the rational model of science and the dynamic position of sociology within it. • Knows how to design a research project, starting with ontological issues, through appropriate selection of method, sampling and analytical strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exam • Research proposal project development 	<p>K_W02 K_W14 K_W18 K_W21</p>
<p>Skills</p> <p>Student:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is able to conceptualize her research problem in the context of existing body of research and theorizing. • Is able to formulate a research problem and post the research questions. • Can use the theoretical framework of other social scientist in her own work critically evaluating it. • Can design the research project, select the most productive methods and justify this selection. • Is ready to design a strategy of interpretation of data. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation of the in class discussion. • Evaluation of the development of the research project in class. • Evaluation of the exam performance. 	<p>K_U01 K_U10</p>

Social competences

Student:

- Is eager to position herself within a strand of sociological thinking and engage in an informed discussion with other theoretical perspectives.
- Realizes the sensitivity of working with human subjects in sociological research.
- Is creative and critical in empirical thinking.

- Evaluation of the in class discussion.
- Evaluation of the development of the research project in class.

K_K05
K_K10