

# Research Design & Methods in Social Sciences

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## GENERAL

<b>SCHOOL</b>	School of Environment		
<b>ACADEMIC UNIT</b>	Department of Environment		
<b>LEVEL OF STUDIES</b>	Postgraduate		
<b>COURSE CODE</b>	<b>ENV581</b>	<b>SEMESTER</b>	<b>Spring</b>
<b>COURSE TITLE</b>	Research Design & Methods in Social Sciences		
<b>INDEPENDENT TEACHING ACTIVITIES</b>		<b>TEACHING HOURS</b>	<b>CREDITS</b>
Lectures			
Workshops			
<b>Course Total</b>			<b>4</b>
<i>Add rows if necessary. The organisation of teaching and the teaching methods used are described in detail at (d).</i>			
<b>COURSE TYPE</b>	skills development		
<b>PREREQUISITE COURSES:</b>	Introduction to Quantitative Research Methods (I and II) @ CEU Fall Semester		
<b>COURSE WEBSITE (URL)</b>	<a href="https://aegeanmoodle.aegean.gr">https://aegeanmoodle.aegean.gr</a>		

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

<b>Learning outcomes</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- understand the basic framework for deductive scientific inquiry</li> <li>- understand the basic framework for deductive scientific inquiry</li> <li>- familiarize with creating and administering questionnaires</li> <li>- practice in coding &amp; analyzing quantitative data for hypotheses testing</li> <li>- familiarize with planning and conducting interviews</li> <li>- practice in discourse analysis techniques</li> </ul>
<b>General Competences</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- analysis and synthesis of data and information, with the use of the necessary technology</li> <li>- Team work</li> <li>- Working in an international environment</li> <li>- Working in an interdisciplinary environment</li> <li>- Production of new research ideas</li> </ul>

## SYLLABUS

The course aims to offer students practical experience in designing and conducting real-life social sciences research with an emphasis on environmental topics. The course covers both quantitative and qualitative research designs. Topics covered include: (i) deductive theoretical model construction (ii) questionnaire design and administration (iii) quantitative data analysis (using SPSS) (iv) grounded theory (v) conducting interviews (vi) discourse analysis (using Q-methodology).

The topics of the Lectures and in-class activities include:

- Introduction to Social Sciences' Research; Quantitative Research Methods
- Discussion of individual draft questionnaires- Designing final questionnaire to be used for data collection
- Fielding questionnaire & collecting data
- Analyzing questionnaire data
- Introduction to Qualitative research methods
- Finalizing the Q-sort; Q-sorting; and data coding
- Analyzing Q data

#### TEACHING and LEARNING METHODS - EVALUATION

<b>DELIVERY</b>	<i>Face-to Face</i>	
<b>USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY</b>	Use of ICT in teaching, laboratory education, communication with students	
<b>TEACHING METHODS</b>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Semester workload</i>
	Lectures, seminars	12 hours
	Workshops, Laboratory practice	10 hours
	Self-study and independent work (reading, assignments, projects)	78 hours
	<b>Course total</b>	<b>100 hours</b>
<b>STUDENT PERFORMANCE EVALUATION</b>	<p>Students will be graded based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual Assignment (IA) 1 QUANTITATIVE methods (8%)</li> <li>• IA2 QUANTITATIVE methods (4%)</li> <li>• IA3 QUANTITATIVE methods (8%)</li> <li>• IA4 QUANTITATIVE methods (30%)</li> <li>• IA5 QUALITATIVE methods (3%)</li> <li>• IA6 QUALITATIVE methods (14%)</li> <li>• IA7 QUALITATIVE methods (3%)</li> <li>• IA9 QUALITATIVE methods (30%)</li> </ul>	

#### ATTACHED BIBLIOGRAPHY

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• de Vaus D.A. (1996) Surveys in Social Research, UCL Press</li> <li>• McKeown &amp; Thomas (1988) Q methodology, Sage</li> <li>• de Vaus D.A. (2002) Analyzing Social Sciences Data, Sage</li> <li>• Field A. (2000) Discovering Statistics using SPSS for Windows</li> <li>• Lewis-Beck et al (eds.) (2003) The Sage encyclopedia of social science research methods, Sage</li> </ul>
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