

COURSE OUTLINE

- **GENERAL**

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| SCHOOL | School of Social Sciences | | |
| DEPARTMENT | Sociology | | |
| LEVEL OF STUDIES | Undergraduate | | |
| COURSE CODE | 755 | SEMESTER | H |
| COURSE TITLE | Applied Social Research with Emphasis on Contemporary Social Issues | | |
| INDEPENDENT TEACHING ACTIVITIES If ECTS credits are awarded separately for parts of the course (e.g. Lectures, Lab Exercises, etc.) list them accordingly. If credits are awarded as a whole, state the weekly teaching hours and total credits | | WEEKLY TEACHING HOURS | ECTS CREDITS |
| | | 3 | 6 |
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| COURSE TYPE General background, specific background, specialization General knowledge, skills development | Compulsory Elective / Specialization in General Knowledge | | |
| PREREQUISITE COURSES: | None | | |
| LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION and EXAMS: | Greek and English | | |
| THE COURSE IS OFFERED TO ERASMUS STUDENTS | Yes | | |
| COURSE WEBSITE (URL) | www.soc.aegean.gr | | |

| LEARNING OUTCOMES |
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| <p>Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Critically identify and analyze major contemporary social problems and their multiple dimensions. 2. Design comprehensive research protocols for the study of contemporary social issues using appropriate methodology. 3. Apply quantitative and qualitative research methods for data collection and analysis regarding complex social problems. 4. Critically evaluate existing research findings and identify methodological gaps and limitations. 5. Link research findings to the formulation of social policies and interventions. 6. Collaborate effectively in interdisciplinary research teams. 7. Reflect on ethical issues and the social responsibilities of researchers. 8. Communicate research findings effectively to different audiences (academic community, policy makers, general public). |

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| General Competencies | |
| Considering the general competencies that graduates must acquire (as listed in the Diploma Supplement), which of these does the course aim to develop? | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Search, analysis, and synthesis of data and information, using the necessary technologies. - Adaptation to new situations. - Decision-making. - Autonomous work. - Teamwork. - Working in an international environment. - Working in an interdisciplinary environment. - Production of new research ideas. - Project planning and management. - Respect for diversity and multiculturalism. - Respect for the natural environment. - Demonstration of social, professional, and ethical responsibility and sensitivity to gender issues. - Exercise of critical and self-critical thinking. - Promotion of free, creative, and inductive thinking. | |
| <p>Teaching Approach</p> <p>The course adopts a multidimensional teaching approach requiring a variety of skills, as it combines:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lectures presenting theoretical concepts, methodological approaches, and contemporary social issues by the instructor. 2. Discussion of selected texts and research examples with active student participation. 3. Practical training in applying research methods and data analysis techniques. 4. Case studies analyzing specific research programs focusing on contemporary social problems. 5. Presentations by researchers, professionals, and policy makers working in the field. 6. Collaborative design and implementation of small-scale research projects. 7. Contact with organizations and agencies conducting applied social research. 8. Solving real research problems through group work and critical thinking. 9. Provision of supplementary material, interactive exercises, and discussion forums. 10. Individual guidance: Meetings with the instructor for support in research projects and personalized feedback. | |
| <p>COURSE CONTENT</p> <p>Course Summary</p> <p>Week 1: Introduction to Applied Social Research</p> | |

- The field and historical evolution of applied social research.
- Differences between basic and applied research.
- Epistemological approaches in social research.
- The role of the researcher and reflexivity.

Weeks 2 to 5: Mapping Empirical Research in Contemporary Social Issues

- Social inequalities and exclusion in the 21st century.
- Migration, refugee issues, and social integration.
- Demographic challenges (aging, low birth rates).
- Economic crises and social impacts.
- Climate change and environmental crisis. Ecotherapy.
- Digital transformation and social implications.
- Pandemics (e.g., COVID-19) and social consequences.
- Education and new labor conditions in the 21st century.

Unit 6: Designing Applied Social Research

- Formulating socially relevant research questions.
- Literature review and identifying research gaps.
- Choosing appropriate theoretical frameworks.
- Designing methodology based on the research problem.
- Selecting data collection and analysis methods.
- Ethical issues in applied social research.

Week 6: Quantitative Methods in Applied Social Research

- Designing and conducting sample surveys.
- Construction and evaluation of questionnaires.
- Analysis of secondary data (national/international databases).
- Statistical analysis and interpretation of quantitative data.
- Mixed methods in social research.
- Longitudinal studies.

Week 9: Qualitative Methods in Applied Social Research

- In-depth interviews and focus groups.
- Ethnographic research and participant observation.
- Content analysis and discourse analysis.
- Narrative and biographical approaches.
- Participatory action research.
- Case studies of social phenomena.

Week 10: Interdisciplinary Approaches and Innovative Methodologies

- Interdisciplinarity in social research.
- Digital methods and research on social media.
- Visual methods in social research.
- Spatial analysis and mapping of social phenomena.
- Predictive methods and future scenario building.
- Big data and computational methods in social research.

Week 12: From Research to Policy and Social Intervention

- Linking research and policy-making.
- Evaluation of social programs and interventions.
- Social impact of research and its measurement.
- Collaboration with social partners and civil society organizations.
- Dissemination of research findings and public sociology.

Week 13: Case Studies in Applied Social Research

- Presentation and analysis of successful research programs.
- Lessons from the practical application of social research.
- Facing field challenges and limitations.
- Critical evaluation of methodological choices.

• **TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS - ASSESSMENT**

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| Delivery Method | Face-to-face teaching. | |
| Use of Information and Communication Technologies Use of ICT in Teaching, Laboratory Education, and Communication with Students. | Yes | |
| Teaching Organization The teaching method and methodology are described in detail. Lectures, Seminars, Laboratory Exercise, Field Exercise, Study & Analysis of Literature, Tutorial, Internship (Placement), Clinical Exercise, Artistic Workshop, Interactive Teaching, Educational Visits, Study Preparation (Project), Writing of Work / Assignments, Artistic Creation, etc. | Activity | Workload (Semester Hours) |
| | Lectures | 39 hours |
| | Essay Writing | 78 hours |
| | Field Work, Literature Review | 60 hours |
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| <i>The student's study hours for each learning activity are listed as well as the hours of unguided study according to ECTS principles.</i> | Total Course Workload: | 177 hours |
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| Student Assessment | Assessment Language: Greek and English | |

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| <p>Language of Assessment, Assessment Methods, Formative or Inferential, Multiple Choice Test, Short Answer Questions, Essay Development Questions, Problem Solving, Written Assignment, Report / Report, Oral Examination, Public Presentation, Laboratory Work, Clinical Examination of a Patient, Artistic Interpretation, Other / Others</p> | <p>Student assessment will be based on the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research Protocol (5%): Design of a comprehensive research protocol for a contemporary social problem (individual work). 2. Group Research Project (30%): Implementation of a small-scale research project in groups of 3–4 students, including data collection, analysis, and final report. 3. Presentation (5%): Presentation of the group research project in class and response to questions. 4. Written Exam (50%): Critical analysis of a research article and evaluation of its methodology. 5. Class Participation (10%): Active participation in discussions, workshops, and group activities. |
| <p>Clearly defined evaluation criteria will be provided and made accessible to students.</p> | |

RECOMMENDED BIBLIOGRAPHY

| Book | Authors | Year | Publishers |
|---|--|------|-----------------------|
| Στατιστική Έρευνα Μέθοδοι και Εφαρμογές | Ρόντος Κ., Παπάνης Ε. | 2006 | Σιδέρη |
| Social Research Methods | Bryman, A. | 2020 | OxfordUniversityPress |
| Social Research Methods: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches | Neuman, W. L. | 2019 | Pearson |
| Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches | Creswell, J. W., & Creswell, J. D. | 2018 | SAGE Publications |
| Qualitative Research Practice: A Guide for Social Science Students and Researchers | Ritchie, J., Lewis, J., Nicholls, C. M., & Ormston, R. (Eds.) | 2014 | SAGE Publications |
| Real World Research | Robson, C., & McCartan, K. | 2016 | Wiley |
| An Introduction to Qualitative Research | Flick, U. | 2018 | SAGE Publications |
| Longitudinal and Panel Studies | Elliot, J., Holland, J., & Thomson, R. | 2008 | SAGE Publications |
| The Essential Guide to Doing Your Research Project | O'Leary, Z. | 2017 | SAGE Publications |
| Case Study Research and Applications: Design and Methods | Yin, R. K. | 2018 | SAGE Publications |
| Introduction to Longitudinal Research | Ruspini, E. | 2002 | Routledge |
| Designing Social Research: The Logic of Anticipation | Blaikie, N., & Priest, J. | 2019 | PolityPress |
| Constructing Survey Data: An Interactional Approach | Gobo, G., & Mauceri, S. | 2014 | SAGE Publications |
| Bringing quality and meaning to quantitative data – Bringing | Karpatschof, B. | 2007 | NordicPsychology |

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| quantitative evidence to qualitative observation | | | |
| Επιστημονικά Περιοδικά | Τίτλος | | |
| Social Problems | Journal of Social Issues | | |
| Social Indicators Research | Journal of Applied Social Science | | |
| Sociological Research Online | Qualitative Research | | |
| Quality & Quantity | International Journal of Social Research Methodology | | |
| Ηλεκτρονικοί Πόροι και Εργαλεία | URL | | |
| Social Science Research Network (SSRN) | https://www.ssrn.com | | |
| Social Science Statistics | https://www.socscistatistics.com | | |
| EUROSTAT | https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat | | |
| ΕΛΣΤΑΤ (Ελληνική Στατιστική Αρχή) | https://www.statistics.gr | | |
| CESSDA (Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives) | https://www.cessda.eu | | |
| Εθνικό Κέντρο Κοινωνικών Ερευνών (ΕΚΚΕ) | https://www.ekke.gr | | |
| European Social Survey | https://www.europeansocialsurvey.org | | |
| OECD Social Indicators | https://www.oecd.org/social/ | | |