Course
Specifications
Valid as from the academic year 2016-2017

Sociological Research I (K000979)

Course

Specifications

Lecturers in academic year 2019-2020

Willekens, Mart

PS04
lecturer-in-charge

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2019-2020

A (semester 1)

Dutch

Contact hrs

lecture

7.5 h

PDE tutorial

11.25 h

microteaching

7.5 h

excursion

7.5 h

group work

26.25 h

Offered in the following programmes in 2019-2020

Bachelor of Science in Sociology

7

A

Linking course Master of Science in Sociology

7

A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Sociology, conceptual models, causal models, long-term research

Position of the course

This basic course aims to demonstrate the link between theory and methodology, with special attention to teaching students the ways in which scientifically well-founded problems and research questions are formulated. As such, this educational component is in keeping with the educational competences B.2.1 en B.2.2. Students write a paper in group and take charge of regular feedback of the results of their group work through presentations and discussion sessions. This links up perfectly with the intellectual competence B.3.2. By way of obligated independent study, students work on B.1.2. Working in group adds to acquiring competences in competence area 4. To be able to report with transparency on the findings in a written and oral way links up with competences B.4.1 en B.4.2.

The component covers the first half of the research cycle. It prepares for the Seminar on Methods of Sociological Research (2BA), which covers the second part of the cycle. The course links up with the courses ‘Sociology’ and ‘Contemporary Social Problems’ (Ba1).

By means of practical exercises, students are familiarized with the development of scientific arguments in sociological literature. By means of a literature study about an assigned subject, students are taught to formulate a personal research problem and to draft research questions, as well as to elaborate a conceptual model, in preparation for the Seminar ‘Methods of Sociological Research’.

Initial competences

To have successfully completed the educational components ‘Sociology’ (1BA) and ‘Contemporary Social Problems’ (1BA), or to have acquired the competences targeted in these components in another way.

Final competences

1 To be able to recognize and critically approach of argumentation and reasoning in sociological literature.

(Approved)
2 To be able to draw up scientifically solid arguments about a scientific research problem.
3 To be able to formulate research problems, questions, hypotheses and conceptual models based on literature study.
4 To be able to efficiently and transparently present a research proposal to a group.
5 To be able to write out a research proposal.
6 To be able to reflect upon the results of group work.
7 To have a critical attitude toward social-scientific literature and practice.

Conditions for credit contract
Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment.

Conditions for exam contract
This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract.

Teaching methods
Excursion, group work, lecture, microteaching, PDE tutorial.

Extra information on the teaching methods
There will be discussion and evaluation sessions with presentations by the students, assignments and written reports.

Learning materials and price
A reader of mainly English literature will be available on Minerva. Content depends on the researched topic.

References

Course content-related study coaching
Free office hours (lecturer and assistant)

Evaluation methods
continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation
Oral examination, assignment, report

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation
examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form.

Extra information on the examination methods
Students are assessed on their contribution to the discussion and evaluation sessions, the group assignments and written report. The assessment takes into account the results of the group work, and the individual contribution to the realization of the collective result.

Calculation of the examination mark
Strictly continuous assessment (100%)