

31204 - Research Methods

Syllabus Information

Academic year: 2023/24

Subject: 31204 - Research Methods

Faculty / School: 301 - Facultad de Ciencias Sociales y Humanas

Degree: 613 - Degree in Psychology

ECTS: 6.0

Year: 1

Semester: First semester

Subject type: Compulsory

Module:

1. General information

The purpose of this subject is for students to learn about the scientific research process and its methodological principles, paying special attention to the scientific method, the scientific report according to APA norms and the different research designs used in Psychology.

These approaches and objectives are aligned with the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations Agenda 2030 (<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/es/>), so that the acquisition of the learning results of the subject provides training and competence to contribute to some extent to their achievement:

- Goal 4: Quality Education.
- Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
- Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

2. Learning results

- State the scientific basis of psychological theories and locate their sources of support
- Argue the advantages of research as a source of knowledge
- Identify the research methods used in an article and their limitations
- List the ethical requirements to be met in the research process
- Prepare a scientific report to answer a research question
- Design research to answer important theoretical questions in the field of Psychology

3. Syllabus

- Unit 1. Science and knowledge: Psychology as a science
- Unit 2. The Research Process I: Documentation and databases
- Unit 3. The Research Process II: Properties of the research process
- Unit 4. The scientific report
- Unit 5. Descriptive studies: surveys and observation
- Unit 6. Ethnographic research, case studies, action research, and qualitative data collection techniques and analysis
- Unit 7. Experiments with different groups of participants
- Unit 8. Experimental designs with the same group
- Unit 9. Quasi-experimental and ex post facto designs

4. Academic activities

This subject includes several academic activities that focus mainly on the explanation of the contents, the reinforcement of the most important theoretical ideas of the subject, the understanding and development of the process of research, as well as the production and interpretation of scientific reports. In general:

- Expository classes
- Practical activities of cases and problems
- Guided academic activities
- Works presentation
- Tutorials
- Assessment

5. Assessment system

The continuous assessment of the subject consists of two parts:

- Evaluation of the theoretical part (60% of the final grade): Final written test on the theoretical contents of this subject . Multiple choice and/or short answer questions.
- Evaluation of the practical part (40% of the final grade): This is divided into the evaluation of between 4 and 6 practical activities (15% of the final grade) and the research project (report): 15% of the final grade; presentation: 10% of the final grade). The evaluation of the practical part takes into account the mastery of the contents of the subject, the use of the terminology of the subject, the accuracy of the concepts, the proper use of the APA format and the justification of the arguments used for the realization of these activities.

Students must achieve at least half of the maximum possible grade in each of the parts in order to add them together. Likewise, students are entitled to a global evaluation on all the contents of the subject. In this global evaluation, students are eligible for the maximum grade (100% of the final grade). This evaluation will take place in the official final exam and consists of a written test with multiple choice and/or short answer questions that refer to the theoretical and practical-applied contents of the subject.