



COURSE UNIT INFORMATION SHEET (*SYLLABUS*)

2022/2023

Masters in Child and Adolescent Developmental Psychopathology - Prevention and Intervention

Name: Dissertation

Teaching staff

Ana Isabel Pereira (Professor in charge)

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ECTS 30

Functioning

The CU includes a 30-hour group seminar and 60-hour small group tutorials throughout the year per student.

Learning goals

The objectives are to deepen the knowledge and skills already acquired in previous research methodologies CUs. Specifically, it seeks to develop knowledge and skills to know how to ask research questions; select study designs, assessment measures, and recruitment strategies appropriate to the study objectives; carry out bibliographic research and prepare a literature review; build a database; analyze qualitative and/or quantitative data, using the most appropriate procedures and software programs, write a report in accordance with APA standards, and develop an interdisciplinary approach to data analysis, exploring its application in different contexts.

Skills to be developed

Critical analysis of scientific texts;



Scientific Writing;
Selection and rigorous application of data analysis procedures;
Development and implementation of research projects;
Communication and teamwork.

Prerequisites (precedences) *

Non-applicable

Contents

A. Qualitative methods: Comparative analysis of different qualitative research methods and designs and different data collection techniques: questionnaire, interview, and observation. Data processing techniques (content analysis, thematic analysis, grounded analysis, case study). Use of Nvivo. Analysis, discussion of results and conclusions in qualitative studies.

B. Quantitative methods: Exploratory Data Analysis: numerical measures (eg measures of central tendency, dispersion). Outliers; Probabilities, population, and sample: p-value, confidence intervals, bootstrap, test power, and effect size. Comparison of means: Student's t-test and analysis of variance. Linear Regression Models: correlation vs causality and regression fallacy. Testing of mediation and moderation effects. Dimensionality Reduction: Exploratory Factor Analysis and Principal Components.

C. Orientation seminar for individual student project monitoring.

Bibliography

Cumming, G. (2012). *Understanding the new statistics: effect sizes, confidence intervals, and meta-analysis*. New York: Routledge

Field, A. P. (20011). *Discovering statistics using SPSS: (and sex and drugs and rock 'n' roll)*. Los Angeles [i.e. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: SAGE Publications.

Freeman, M & Mathison, S. (2009). *Researching Children's Experiences* 1st Edition. N.Y.: Guilford Press

Hayes, A. (2013). *Introduction to Mediation, Moderation and Conditional Process Analysis: a Regression-Based Approach*. New York, NY: The Guilford Press.

Olson, K. (2011). *Essentials of Qualitative Interviewing*. N.Y.: Routledge.

Teaching methods

The CU includes a small-group seminar with the advisor, where the student is accompanied in the dissertation process, which theme and objectives were defined in the CU Research Methodologies of the 1st year. In this seminar, the student develops his project integrated into a small group that works on themes inserted in the same larger project with other researchers. In parallel, there are two modules directed to the



whole class, for learning and training of advanced data analysis methodologies. Deadlines are set for the delivery of specific work components throughout the year, and students receive individual corrective feedback, in writing, feedback and rewriting sequence. Both components use active and student-centered methodologies.

Evaluation Regimes (General and/or Alternative)

The final evaluation results from the presentation and discussion of the dissertation and takes into consideration the autonomy and quality of the work throughout the year, as well as the public presentation and discussion.

Evaluation Elements

Work and progress monitoring during the year
Presentation and discussion of the dissertation

Rules for grade improvement

Non-applicable

Rules for students having previously failed the course unit *

Non-applicable

Requirements on attendance and punctuality

Attendance and punctuality, in particular the timely delivery of the different parts of the dissertation, is a fundamental element of evaluation.

Rules for special students

(workers, elite athletes, student body leaders, military, fathers/mothers, with special needs) *

Language of instruction

The language of instruction is Portuguese, but a sufficient command of English is essential to read and understand scientific texts (reading and listening).

Disciplinary violations and penalties

According to the Evaluation of Learning Regulation of the Faculty of Psychology of the University of Lisbon, the following behaviors are considered as disciplinary offenses subject to disciplinary action:

a) To use or attempt to use materials, information, notes, study resources or other objects and equipment not authorized in academic exercises;



- b) To help or try to help a colleague in committing a disciplinary offense;
- c) To submit the same written work for evaluation in different course units without permission from the instructors, even if with minor changes;
- d) To present someone else's work as one's own;
- e) To forge, or change without permission from the author, any information or citation in an academic work;
- f) To interfere, change or attempt to change grades;
- g) To try to prevent or interfere with the proper functioning of classes, research or other academic activities;
- h) To make false accusations regarding instructors, governance bodies, other students or non-teaching staff of the FPUL;
- i) To falsify signatures in attendance sheets, documents relating to evaluation elements or in any official document relating to an academic process or status.

Disciplinary offenses committed in any assessment element can lead to its annulment, and must be reported to the Pedagogical Council or, considering their gravity and repetition, may lead to other penalties, to be determined by the Rector of the University of Lisbon.

* If applicable