

COURSE OUTLINE

Name of course		RESEARCH METHODS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	
Lector		e-mail:	
Seminar Instructor		e-mail:	
Week 1	Topic 1 Introduction to the research methodology	Lecture, hours	Seminar, hours
	1.1 Research paradigm 1.2 Scientific thinking 1.3 Research ethics 1.4 Research design	3	1
Week 2	Topic 2 Identified research focus on sustainable development	Lecture, hours	Seminar, hours
	2.1 Introduction to Sustainable Development 2.2 Key Principles of Sustainability: environment, equity, and economy 2.3 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Explain the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and their role in guiding research efforts 2.4 The Scope of Research in Sustainable Development 2.5 Case Studies: real-world examples and case studies that showcase successful sustainable development research projects 2.6 Measuring Sustainability: Explore different metrics and indicators used to measure sustainability and track progress	3	1
Week 3	Topic 3 Research paradigms and stages	Lecture, hours	Seminar, hours
	3.1 Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed methods 3.2 Data collection 3.3 Research methodology	3	1
Week 4	Topic 4 Stages of conducting research	Lecture, hours	Seminar, hours
	4.1 Identifying management dilemma 4.3 Formulating research questions 4.4 Conducting literature review 4.5 A brief on research methodology, data collection, analysis and report writing	3	1



Co-funded by
the European Union



Week 5	Topic 5 Theory and conceptual framework	Lecture, hours	Seminar, hours
	5.1 Theories in social science and application to sustainability development 5.2 Hypothesis Development 5.3 Population, sampling design and sampling procedures 5.4 Research variables	3	-
Week 6	Topic 6 Data collection for qualitative research methods I	Lecture, hours	Seminar, hours
	6.1 Observational technique 6.2 Methodological considerations for the use of observation 6.3 Types of observation	3	-
Week 7	Topic 7 Data collection for qualitative research methods II	Lecture, hours	Seminar, hours
	7.1 Interview 7.2 Interview design and protocol of interview 7.3 Interview types	3	1
Week 8	Topic 8 Questionnaire methods	Lecture, hours	Seminar, hours
	8.1 Step in Conducting Questionnaire 8.2 Error Source 8.3 Construct Questionnaire 8.4 Selecting a Measurement Scale	3	1
Week 9	Topic 9 Measurement	Lecture, hours	Seminar, hours
	9.1 Scales of Measurement 9.2 Example of measurements related to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) using each scale	3	1
Week 10	Topic 10 Quality of research	Lecture, hours	Seminar, hours
	10.1. Need for quality of research in sustainability studies 10.2. Aspects of research quality	3	1
Week 11	Topic 11 Quantitative data analysis	Lecture, hours	Seminar, hours
	11.1 Data Preparation in Quantitative Data Analysis 11.2 Descriptive statistics 11.2 Correlation	3	1



	11.3 Multiple regression 11.4 Hypothesis testing		
Week 12	Topic 12 Qualitative data analysis	Lecture, hours	Seminar, hours
	12.1 Forms of Qualitative Data 12.2 Qualitative vs. Quantitative Analysis 12.3 Analyzing Qualitative Data 12.4 Practicing Quantitative Data Analysis: An example	3	-
Week 13	Final exam	3	-
	Exam instruction will be provided		

RECOMMENDED SOURCES

Compulsory literature:

Frances Fahy and Henrike Rau (2013) *Methods of Sustainability Research in the Social Sciences*, (p.232) SAGE Publications Ltd.

Jingzheng Ren (2021) *Methods in Sustainability Science Assessment, Prioritization, Improvement, Design and Optimization* (p.426), Elsevier, ISBN 978-0-12-823987-2
<https://doi.org/10.1016/C2020-0-00430-5>

Janette Hartz-Karp and Dora Marinova (2017) *Methods for Sustainability Research* (p. 352)
ISBN: 978-1-78643272-8

Schindler, P. S. (2022). *Business Research Methods* (14th ed.). McGraw-Hill/Irwin. [SPS]

Suggested reading:

Ducham Developmental Editor, Christina Kouvelis Managing Developmental Editor.
Gericke, N., Pauw, J., B., Berglund, T., Olsson, D. (2018, 2019). The Sustainability Consciousness Questionnaire: The theoretical development and empirical validation of an evaluation instrument for stakeholders working with sustainable development. *Sustainable Development*, 27(1), 35-49. <https://doi.org/10.1002/sd.1859>

Gericke, N., Pauw, J., B., Berglund, T., Olsson, D. (2018, 2019). The Sustainability Consciousness Questionnaire: The theoretical development and empirical validation of an evaluation instrument for stakeholders working with sustainable development.



Co-funded by
the European Union

Sustainable Development, 27(1), 35-49. <https://doi.org/10.1002/sd.1859>

Jupp, V. (Ed.) (2006). The Sage Dictionary of Social Research Methods. SAGE Publications

Khalidi, K. (2017). Quantitative, Qualitative or Mixed Research: Which Research Paradigm to Use? Journal of Educational and Social Research, 7(2) DOI:10.5901/jesr.2017.v7n2p15
 URL: <http://archive.sciendo.com/JESR/jesr.2017.7.issue-2/jesr.2017.v7n2p15/jesr.2017.v7n2p15.pdf>

Marshall, J., Coleman, G., & Reason, P. (2011). *Leadership for Sustainability: An Action Research Approach*. New York: Routledge.

Selected internet sources:

Arman Bidarbakhtnia, Measuring Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): an inclusive approach, available at
https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/documents/ece/ces/ge.32/2020/mtg1/W_2_B_ENG_Measuring_SDG_progress_ESCAP.pdf

UNECE, 2020, Measuring and Monitoring progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, available at https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-04/2012761_E_web.pdf

UN, 2023, *SDG Indicators*, available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/>

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Assignment	25%
Class participation and discussion	20%
Mini-project	25%
Final exam	30%



**Co-funded by
the European Union**