

University of Pretoria Yearbook 2020

Sociology 321 (SOC 321)

Qualification	Undergraduate
Faculty	Faculty of Humanities
Module credits	30.00
Programmes	BTRP BA BA Law BPolSci International Studies BPolSci Political Studies BSocSci Industrial Sociology and Labour Studies BSW
Prerequisites	SOC 210(GS) or SOC 211(GS) and SOC 220(GS) or SOC 221(GS)
Contact time	1 tutorial per week, 3 lectures per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Sociology
Period of presentation	Semester 2

Module content

Thinking methodologically

This module sets out to introduce students to 'doing research'. In this respect the assumptions and processes underpinning methodological choices in sociological research are considered in order to think about foundations of research, about how knowledge claims are made, how science is conceptualised, what role theory plays, as well as how values and ethics shape the politics of research. In addition to these foundational questions, a broad introduction to methods used in social research is provided by considering both the theoretical dimensions and practical application of various research tools. The purpose of the module is to equip students with the necessary competence to, describe ontological and epistemological debates and different approaches to research in the social sciences, delineate a research problem, identify units of analysis, make sampling decisions and formulate questions and hypothesis as well as understand the principles of quantitative (elementary statistical decision-making) and qualitative data analysis.

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