

#### INTRODUCTION TO EMPIRIC SOCIAL RESEARCH

The course gives an introduction to the methodology of empirical social research. It familiarizes the students with different types of research design, data collection and analysis.

Key issues of the course are the following:

- Scientific thinking;
- The research process;
- Asking the research question;
- Formulating the hypotheses;
- Collecting data;
- Conceptualization and operationalization;
- Survey research;
- Qualitative research methods;
- Reading and writing social research.

#### APPLIED SOCIAL ECONOMICS

The aims of this course are to:

- introduce students to an understanding of the domain of economics as a social theory;
- introduce students to the main analytical tools which are used in economic analysis;
- introduce students to the main conclusions derived from economic analysis and to develop students' understanding of their organisational and policy implications;
- enable students to participate in debates on economic matters.

#### SPECIAL POLICY ISSUES OF LIFE-SPAN DEVELOPMENT

The aim is to familiarize students with social policy making and analysis from the perspective of the participants and the institutions in the process, including public administration and legislative bodies, citizens and other different interest groups. The key issues of the course are the following: How are the perceived public problems formulated (poverty and social exclusion, housing policy, low employment, etc.) and forcing governments/local governments to take action – while other existing problems are neglected? Why is social policy necessary? How are the contents and features of social policy determined? Who decides on the priorities in social policy? etc.

#### FAMILY CONSULTATION

This course focuses foundational theory and skills for generalist social work practice with families. Using systems approach, emphasis is placed on social, cultural, familial and environmental influences on the functioning of individuals & families.

A strengths-based problem-solving model is utilized for preparing students to learn to effectively engage, assess, and provide intervention for individuals & families within the context of family environments commonly encountered by social work practitioners.

An emphasis is placed on implementing the case-management based social work process with vulnerable families that confront issues related to social injustice, poverty, discrimination and physical and emotional challenges.

The focus is on social work's role in identifying the phases of the helping process, assessment family dynamics, treatment plan, early intervention, termination, evaluation, follow up, prevention resilience and capacity building in both individuals & families.

#### CONTEMPORARY DRUG POLICY

The course discusses the methods of addiction social work, considering the multidisciplinary nature of addictology, with its medical, psychological, philosophical, criminological, legal, political, sociological and artistic aspects. It familiarizes the students with the types of substance use and addiction, the aetiology of the disease, the primary prevention, treatment and harm reduction programmes, self-help groups, the functioning and methods of social services specialized in addictions, and the legal and political background of their functioning.