**COURSE LAYOUT**

1. **GENERAL**

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| **SCHOOL** | APPLIED ECONOMICS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES |
| **DEPARTMENT** | AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS & RURAL DEVELOPMENT |
| **STUDY LEVEL** | *Undergraduate* |
| **COURSE CODE** | **2375** | **SEMESTER** | 4 |
| **COURSE TITLE** | METHODS OF AGROECONOMIC & SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH |
| **INDEPENDENT TEACHING ACTIVITIES** | **WEEKLY TEACHING HOURS** | **CREDITS/ECTS** |
| LECTURES | 3 | 5 |
| LABORATORY- Exercises & applications | 2 |
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| **COURSE TYPE** | Skills development |
| **PREREQUISITES** |  |
| **LANGUAGE** | Greek |
| **IS THE COURSE OFFERED forERASMUS STUDENTS?** | No |
| **COURSE WEB PAGE** | <http://openeclass.aua.gr>  |

1. **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

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| **Learning Outcomes** |
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| The scope of the course is the provision of the academic and technical **knowledge** that will contribute to the understanding of both the theoretical and methodological approaches for the design and execution of a research project in the rural areas. The course will support the student to **understand and explain** socioeconomic phenomena, to discover **regularity and order** behind them and to place these phenomena in the historical, economic and social environment of their operation.The course is divided into two parts: the theoretical and the practical involving the laboratory work. In the theoretical part of the course the student **understands** that the target of research is explorative, descriptive and explanatory. At the explorative stage, the target is to help the breaking down of the questions and the preparation of the research. The most important part of the socio-economic research is the descriptive part which uses both the quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection. At the explanatory level, the target is to identify the causes and reasons why something is happening. Thus, the student is taught how he/she will follow the steps/stages of the research process from asking the basic research question to the design of the research, the selection of method, the collection of information, the analysis of findings with the use of appropriate technical tools, their explanation and the writing up and dissemination of results.In the laboratory, the student receives the **knowledge** of sampling, the counting tools and the **methods of analysis** with the use of Spss.The course has been included in the programme “open courses- central register for Greek open courses” financed by the EU.After the completion of the course, the student will have:* obtained the **theoretical knowledge** to pose and investigate a research question
* developed the **technical skills** for the investigation of social and economic problems in rural areas
* acquired the capacity to **understand and explain** the socioeconomic phenomena studied
* discovered **regularity and order** behind socioeconomic phenomena and will have obtained the ability to place their explanation in the modern context of their operation
* obtained the theoretical knowledge and the technical **skills** to manage and **handle critical problems** in research and development at a national and international level
* develop the capacity to **analyze** data/information, **synthesize** findings, explain and compose final reports
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| **General Competences** |
| * Autonomous work
* Group work
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1. **COURSE CONTENT**

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| * The dimensions of social research: basic and applied
* The research methods: quantitative and qualitative approaches
* The research question, the selection of method and the stages of empirical research
* The sampling research process: methods of sampling and data collection Questionnaire design. Research designs for collecting data and comparison of advantages and disadvantages of the various methods of data collection
* Data types and processing along with methods of data analysis, presentation and interpretation of data with the help of specific research examples
* The interview and its difficulties
* The qualitative method. ‘Aide memoire’ and research design
* Participant observation, content analysis
* The research publication
* More laboratory work related to issues of bibliography search, sampling, statistical analysis (SPSS) and project presentation.
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1. **TEACHING and LEARNING METHODS - Evaluation**

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| **TEACHING METHOD** | Live, face to face teaching in the classroom |
| **USE OF INFORMATICS and COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES** | * The course is completely computerized in the form of Power-point presentation and web-linked teaching
* The support of learning process and the necessary materials are facilitated by the electronic, web based e-class platform
* The course has been included in the programme “open access e-learning project for university courses”
* Exercises for homework uploaded in the Eclass platform
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| **TEACHING ORGANISATION** |

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| *Activity* | *Workload* |
| Lectures (direct) | 65 |
| Laboratory | 13 |
| Exercise work | 26 |
| Autonomous study | 21 |
| *Total contact hours and training(25 hours per ECTS)* | ***125*** ***(5 ECTS)*** |

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| **STUDENTS EVALUATION** | **I)** Written final examination (50%) of different difficulty, based on the lectures offered, containing:- Questions of development - Multiple choice questions**II)** Exercise questions with the use of Spss (50% of final evaluation) |

1. **BIBILIOGRAPHY**

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| * Kasimis C., *Lecture notes*, uploaded in the Eclass platform
* Alexopoulos Y., *Lecture notes*, uploaded in the Eclass platform
* Nellas El. *Laboratory notes and exercises*, uploaded in the Eclass platform

**Other suggested bibliography*** [Babbie Earl](http://www.perizitito.gr/persons.php?personid=92093) (2018), *Introduction to social research*, , 2nd edition, Kritiki, Athens (in Greek)
* Daoutopoulos G. (2011) , *Methodology in social research*, 6th edition, Thessaloniki (in Greek)
* Dafermos B. (2005), *Social Statistics with SPSS,* Ziti, Thessaloniki, pp. 289-309 (in Greek)
* National Centre for Social Research,Zarnari O. et. al. (1998), *Introduction to the methodology and the techniques of social research*, [Gutenberg](http://www.perizitito.gr/publishers.php?publisherid=399), Athens (in Greek)
* Iossifidis Th. (2008), *Qualitative research methods in social sciences,* Kritiki, Athens (in Greek)
* Kyriazi N. (1999), *The sociological research. A critical review of methods and techniques,* Ellinika Grammata, Athens (in Greek)
* Bechrakis Th.E. (2010), *Statistics for human and societal sciences: Methods and examples,* Livanis, Athens (in Greek)
* Saunders M., Lewis Ph., Thornhill A., Tsoukatos E., Vrontis J. (2019) *Research Methods in Business and Economics*, Disigma, Thessaloniki (in Greek)
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