

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: RESEARCH METHODS
Status: Definitive
Code: **4505CPHEA** (100006)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2014

Owning School/Faculty: Nursing and Allied Health
Teaching School/Faculty: Accrington & Rossendale College

Team	Leader
Philomene Uwamaliya	Y

Academic Level: FHEQ4 **Credit Value:** 20.00 **Total Delivered Hours:** 48.00
Total Learning Hours: 200 **Private Study:** 152

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 2

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	45.000
Tutorial	3.000

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Essay	AS1	CW1 Quantitative Essay (1500 words)	50.0	
Essay	AS2	CW2 Qualitative Essay (1500 words)	50.0	

Aims

- 1. The aim of the course is to offer students a comprehensive introduction to the uses and limitations a variety of qualitative and quantitative research methods commonly used by sociologists, social policy makers, psychologists and health specialists.*
- 2. To examine some of the key relationships between theoretical issues and*

research methods.

3. To Introduce students to some of the ethical issues of conducting research on individuals, groups or even organisations.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Outline and explain the key characteristics of quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection.
- 2 Describe the various ways in which research methods can be used in social science research.
- 3 Identify and explain both the possibilities and limitations in the use and suitability of qualitative and quantitative research methods.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

Essay	1	2	3
Essay	1	2	3

Outline Syllabus

Explore the evolution & epistemological traditions of both quantitative and qualitative research methodologies & approaches. Examine the contribution and uses of each approach to both social science and health researchers.

Quantitative Methods

The development and principles of quantitative research methodologies: Primary techniques - producing research questions & hypotheses; survey types & sampling techniques. Questionnaires: construction, design, types, scaling, piloting, advantages & disadvantages of questionnaires & structured interviews. Experiments: methods & designs, hypothesis testing, variables, analysis of the advantages and disadvantages of experimental methods. Preparing lab reports. Introduction to quantitative data analysis techniques, e.g. levels of measurement, measures of central tendency & descriptive statistics. Evaluating data: validity, reliability & methodological triangulation. Secondary research techniques - explore uses and limitations of published secondary data & official statistics.

Qualitative Methods

To examine the development and principles of qualitative research methodologies: by examining: Primary techniques – ethnography & observation; purpose, uses and limitations of overt and covert observational methods. Examine qualitative interviewing, focus groups, and use of personal documents/ diaries, case studies and oral/life history. Consider the role of the researcher in the research process and evaluating the validity and reliability of qualitative research data. Secondary techniques: examine and appraise the uses & limitations of secondary sources of

qualitative data such previous ethnographic studies and secondary textual, audio and visual sources.

Research Ethics: common to both sections

Explore debates surrounding the role and purpose of ethical conduct in the research process and how ethical considerations can inform as well as constrain the research process. Examine ethical guidance from professional bodies such as British Psychological Society, British Sociological Association & specific health ethic committees.

Learning Activities

Lectures, group work, discussions, independent study.

References

Course Material	Book
Author	Blaxter, L; Hughes, C; Tight, M
Publishing Year	2006
Title	How to Research
Subtitle	
Edition	2nd edition
Publisher	Open University Press
ISBN	033521746X

Course Material	Book
Author	Breakwell, G; Hammond, S; Fife-Shaw, C; Smith, J
Publishing Year	2006
Title	Social Research Methods in Psychology
Subtitle	
Edition	3rd edition
Publisher	Sage
ISBN	1412911281

Course Material	Book
Author	Bryman, A
Publishing Year	2008
Title	Social Research Methods
Subtitle	
Edition	3rd edition
Publisher	Oxford University Press
ISBN	0199202958

Course Material	Book
Author	Coolican, H
Publishing Year	2006
Title	Introduction to Research Methods in Psychology

Subtitle	
Edition	3rd edition
Publisher	OxfordUniversity Press
ISBN	0340907576

Course Material	Book
Author	Hammersley, M; Atkinson, P
Publishing Year	2007
Title	Ethnography: Principles in Practice
Subtitle	
Edition	3rd edition
Publisher	Routledge
ISBN	0415396050

Course Material	Book
Author	Robson, C
Publishing Year	2002
Title	Real World Research
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Blackwell Publishing
ISBN	0631213058

Course Material	Book
Author	Silverman, D
Publishing Year	2006
Title	Interpreting Qualitative Data
Subtitle	
Edition	3rd edition
Publisher	Sage
ISBN	1412922453

Course Material	Book
Author	Silverman, D
Publishing Year	2007
Title	A Very Short, Fairly Interesting and Reasonably Cheap Book about Qualitative Research
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Sage
ISBN	1412945967

Notes

The aim of the course is to enable students to examine the relationship between theoretical perspectives and research methodology. It is intended to equip students

with a basic introduction into a variety of research methods, consider some the processes involved in the selection of each method and investigate the uses and limitations of different types of research method. Regular tutorials will provide opportunities for informal formative assessment to support student learning and discuss their overall progress.