

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School/Department:	Psychology
Programme:	MSc Psychology (Conversion)
FHEQ Level:	7
Course Title:	Research Methods I
Course Code:	PSY 7101
Total Hours:	200
Timetabled Hours:	39
Guided Learning Hours:	20
Independent Learning Hours:	140
Credits:	20 UK CATS credits 10 ECTS credits 4 US credits

Course Description:

This course covers quantitative and qualitative research methodology and seeks to explain how they can be used to measure human behaviour. Students will gain experience of conducting research and deriving research questions based on extant evidence. This is a laboratory-based course which requires extensive student participation. Upon completion of this course, students will have mastered the basic steps for conducting independent research with ethical and laboratory constraints set by APA and BPS guidelines.

Prerequisites:

MSc Psychology (Conversion) students only

Aims and Objectives:

The course aims to provide students with the initial training in quantitative and qualitative research methods used within psychology. The steps needed to conduct research will be outlined. Students will be informed of the rigorous scientific principles involved in research and will learn the basics of statistical analyses and qualitative techniques.

Programme Outcomes:

7A.i, 7B.i, 7B.ii, 7B.iii, 7B.iv, 7D.iii, 7D.v

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification. This is maintained by Registry and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- Develop a systematic understanding of the difference between quantitative and qualitative research
- Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of primary and secondary evidence and how to evaluate them
- Develop the ability to design, conduct, analyse, and interpret a research study
- Develop an ability to use statistical software packages to analyse data, and to then analyse the resulting output.
- Develop an ability to undertake basic interviews and focus groups
- Develop an understanding of the ethical issues and the fundamental conceptual and philosophical issues related to qualitative research
- Demonstrate the ability to write a research report according to APA standards

Indicative Content:

- Finding a good research paper
- Designing a valid questionnaire/measure
- Introduction to interview/transcription techniques
- Frequency distribution
- Means and SDs
- Independent, dependent, and confounding variables
- Simple correlational analyses
- Simple experimental analyses
- Constructing an interview schedule
- Introduction to focus group techniques

Assessment:

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and are located at <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/>

Teaching Methodology:

- Lecture presentations with key concepts
- Group discussions on material
- Small group classes to calculate statistical tests using statistical software packages
- Journal articles
- VLE for lecture notes, some readings, and revision notes

Indicative Text(s):

- Field, A. (2017) Discovering Statistics using SPSS for Windows. Sage Publications
- Howitt, D. (2010) Introduction to Qualitative Methods in Psychology: Pearson
- Willig, C (2013) Introducing Qualitative Research in Psychology: Open University Press

Journals

- British Journal of Mathematical and Statistical Psychology
- Journal of Personality and Social Psychology

- Psychological Bulletin
- Qualitative Research in Psychology

Web Sites

EBSCO Host and Google Scholar (or similar) to search for scholarly articles

See syllabus for complete reading list

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry
Revision – annual update	May 2023	
Total Hours updated	April 2024	