

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department:	Psychology
Programme:	MSc Psychology (Conversion)
FHEQ Level:	7
Course Title:	Research Methods II
Course Code:	PSY 7102
Total Hours:	200
Timetabled Hours:	39
Guided Learning Hours:	21
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 builds on the knowledge and skills developed in Research Methods 1. More advanced statistical methods will be covered. Students will develop a deeper understanding of grounded theory and a phenomenological approach. This is a laboratory-based course which requires extensive student participation. Students will produce their own research work derived from a given research area. By the end of the course students will be able to produce a detailed research proposal that can be used for their PSY7500 Empirical Dissertation

Prerequisites:

Completed 12 US credits of the MSc Psychology degree, including PSY 7101

Aims and Objectives:

The course will focus on the usefulness and appropriateness of different research methods for the examination of various phenomena. Special emphasis will be placed on application and interpretation of theories through data gathering and experimentation.

The steps needed to conduct independent research will be cemented. Students will be expected to demonstrate a practical understanding of rigorous scientific principles involved in research and demonstrate the ability to use more complex quantitative and qualitative techniques.

Programme Outcomes:

7A.i, 7A.iii, 7B.i, 7B.ii, 7B.iii, 7B.iv, 7D.i, 7D.ii, 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 complex quantitative and qualitative research techniques
- Appreciate the connections between theories and their patterns of applications in research and be able to critically evaluate these.
- Demonstrate a clear ability to apply different methodologies to differing phenomena
- Develop an ability to use statistical software packages to create datasets, analyse data, and to then analyse the resulting output.
- Demonstrate the ability to write a research report according to APA standards
- Demonstrate the ability to orally present an experimental study to conference standards
- Demonstrate an ability to write a detailed research proposal that can be acted upon.

Indicative Content:

- Correlation and regression
- Experimental methods: mixed ANOVA, MANOVA
- Ethics in research
- Research methods in individual differences psychology
- Research methods in cognitive psychology
- Understanding clinical trials
- Understanding the differences in various Qualitative data analysis
- Thematic Analyses
- Grounded Theory
- Interpretative Phenomenological Analyses (IPA)
- Discourse Analyses

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	