

## **COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT**

<b>Academic School/Department:</b>	Psychology
<b>Programme:</b>	Psychology
<b><i>FHEQ</i> Level:</b>	6
<b>Course Title:</b>	Senior Projects in Psychology II: Qualitative Methods
<b>Course Code:</b>	PSY 6394
<b>Total Hours:</b>	240
Timetabled Hours:	0
Guided Learning Hours:	40
Independent Learning Hours:	200

<b>Credits:</b>	24 UK CATS credits 12 ECTS credits 6 US credits
-----------------	---

### **Course Description:**

This is a course for graduating majors, providing students with the opportunity to conduct an extended piece of qualitative research in a specialized area of psychology. Students independently research, design, conduct, analyze, and report their research with guidance from the course tutor. The focus will be on qualitative methods such as grounded theory, thematic and content analysis.

### **Prerequisites:**

PSY 4200 and PSY 5205

### **Aims and Objectives:**

The course provides students at the end of their university studies with an opportunity to conduct a systematic, qualitative research project that will integrate knowledge gained in prior psychology courses. It will familiarise students with the processes of collecting qualitative data, performing the analysis, and reflecting on its implications regarding the psychological literature. The course also encourages self-management and personal development through collegial group work; and promotes personal and multicultural insights, which are an integral benefit of the disciplines and skills of a psychological training in the social sciences.

**Programme Outcomes:**

Psychology: 6Aiv, 6Biii, 6Biv, 6Cii, 6Di, 6Dii, 6Div

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

**Learning Outcomes:**

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

- Acquire an in-depth knowledge of a variety of qualitative research methods.
- Develop the ability to design a qualitative research project, collect data and complete data analysis.
- Acquire critical and analytical thinking skills relevant to generating and carrying out research to completion.
- To present qualitative research results both orally and in writing.

**Indicative Content:**

- Researching Lived Experience
- Empirical-Phenomenological Method
- Researching Social Processes
- Grounded Theory Procedures
- Researching Life-Worlds
- Hermeneutic Approaches
- Guided Existential Reflection
- How to Present Qualitative Research

**Assessment:**

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

**Teaching Methodology:**

The course material will be covered in the following ways:

- I. Lectures on key topics
- II. Seminars and Tutorials
- III. Research Project

**Indicative Texts:**

Camici, P.M. (2021). *Qualitative research in psychology: Expanding perspectives in methodology and design*. (2nd ed.). American Psychological Association.

Dahlberg, K., Dahlberg, H. & Nyström, M. (2008). *Reflective Lifeworld Research*. Second Edition. Studentlitteratur AB: Lund, Sweden.

Giorgi, A. (1985). *Phenomenology and Psychological Research*. Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA.

Urban, J. B., & van Eeden-Moorefield, B. M. (2018). *Designing and proposing your research project*. American Psychological Association

Willig, C. (2013). *Introducing Qualitative Research in Psychology*. (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). Open University Press.

See syllabus for complete reading list

*Please Note: The core and the reference texts will be reviewed at the time of designing the semester syllabus*

---

Change Log for this CSD:

Major or Minor Change ?	Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or LTPC)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry
Minor	Deletion of specific assessment table	09.11.2021, Psychology Department	
	Various updates as part of the UG programme review	AB Jan 2022	
	Revision – annual update	May 2023	
	Revision of engagement hours	Dec 2023	
	Total Hours Updated	April 2024	