

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department:	Humanities & Social Sciences
Programme:	Psychology
FHEQ Level:	5
Course Title:	Human Science Research
Course Code:	PSYC 5102
Total Hours:	160 (Lev 3-5) (4 US Credit)
Timetabled Hours:	45
Guided Learning Hours:	15
Independent Learning Hours:	100
Credit	16 UK CATS credits 8 ECTS credits 4 US Credits

Course Description:

Human Science Research engages students with the study and interpretation of lived experience. The course covers a range of qualitative models that govern human science research, with a special emphasis on the common features that distinguish them from natural science and quantitative research frameworks. One of the special features of the course is its practical emphasis, whereby students are encouraged to generate human science research questions, to carry out interviews and to complete a series of writing exercises that stimulate their capacity to interpret lived experience. The course also covers the relationship between writing and reflection, the value of narrative approaches, and research ethics in qualitative research. Students will be expected to demonstrate their understanding by means of descriptive interpretations and thematic analyses on key topics.

Prerequisites:

40 Credits and LIBA 4301 Academic and Writing

Aims and Objectives:

- To engage students with the process of conducting qualitative research projects, including the philosophic foundations of human science.
- To develop methodological skills in a practice context, constructing human science research questions and pursuing a broad, systemic approach to gaining experiential material.
- To provide a background for eventual careers in fields (including work in government, international organisations, business and the media) which require articulate, clear-thinking individuals with a grasp of human science research.
- To provide a framework to assist concerned citizens to think critically about issues that are of increasing importance in the 21st century.
- To promote critical engagement with a wide range of literature, and the development of both a succinct writing style, and the ability to present complex arguments orally.

Programme Outcomes:

5AI; 5BII; 5CII; 5DI

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:

- Demonstrates the ability to engage in critical reflection on qualitative research methods used in human science research.
- Demonstrates engagement with the selection, application and utilization of research methods appropriate to human science research.
- Delivers work with limited supervision according to a given brief.
- Demonstrating critical reflection on the kinds of ethical decisions that are made when working with human participants.

Indicative Content:

- Human Science Perspectives & Models
- Process of conducting qualitative research
- Formulating a Human Science Research Question
- How to Review the Professional Literature
- Working with descriptions and sources (i.e. interviews)
- Observing, Interviewing, Writing & Reflection
- How to Select Research Participants
- Ethical Principles & Validation of Human Science Data
- Principles of Qualitative Data Analysis

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:

This course will be delivered face to face through a combination of lectures and interactive sessions. In addition to classroom activities, there are guided learning elements that are tutor led and arranged through Blackboard. These activities can be asynchronous online sessions, flipped classrooms, set readings with discussion boards or set guest lectures for example. Set activities are monitored by the instructor to ascertain student engagement. Students are encouraged to prepare for class and to play an active part, to raise questions, following-up ideas and interact with a wide range of provided material.

Indicative Text(s):

Willig, C. (2021) *Introducing Qualitative Methods in Psychology*. 4th edn. UK: Open University Press.

See syllabus for complete reading list.

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Registry Services
First edition	November 2024	