

## COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

<b>Academic School / Department:</b>	CASS
<b>Programme:</b>	MSc Psychology (Conversion)
<b>FHEQ Level:</b>	7
<b>Course Title:</b>	Research Methods 2
<b>Course Code:</b>	PSY7102
<b>Course Leader:</b>	Dr Afsane Riazi
<b>Student Engagement Hours:</b>	200 (standard 4 credit MSc course)
Lectures:	20
Seminar / Tutorials:	20
Independent / Guided Learning:	160
<b>Semester:</b>	Spring
<b>Credits:</b>	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 are found in the Programme Specification.

This is located at the archive maintained by the 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:

- 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

This course uses atypical assessment approved at Academic Board.  
An indicative set of assessments is shown below. However changes to the syllabus may be made by the Faculty member running the course.

NB: These are subject to discussion with the principle lecturer delivering each course, however they do give an indication of the breadth of assessment across the degree.

Type of assessment	Length per item	Weighting per item
Experimental study report	3000	25%
Laboratory take-home exam/problem sheets	1000	15%
Conference poster presentation	10 minute presentation with Q&A	20%
Final exam		40%

**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**

EBSCOHost 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 Registry Services
Pre requisite PSY 7101		
Course description now mentions PSY 7500 rather than PSY 7xxx		
Four further points added to indicative content		
Two further texts in indicative texts section		