

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School/Department:	CASS
Programme:	MSc Psychology (Conversion)
FHEQ Level:	7
Course Title:	Research Methods 1
Course Code:	PSY7101
Course Leader:	Dr Ira Konstantinou
Student Engagement Hours:	200 (standard 4
credit MSc course) Lectures:	20
Seminar / Tutorials:	20
Independent / Guided Learning:	160
Semester:	Fall
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.

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 proposal	100 0	20 %
Laboratory take-home exam/problem sheets	100 0	15 %
Experimental study report	300 0	25 %
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
<u>Course Description: Final line changed to state ... 'laboratory constraints set by APA and BPS guidelines'</u>		
Two further learning outcomes related to Qualitative research		
Two further indicative content points		
Two further indicative texts		

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