

Methodological Issues and Qualitative Research

Module Code:	PSY5012-B
Academic Year:	2018-19
Credit Rating:	20
School:	School of Social Sciences
Subject Area:	Psychology
FHEQ Level:	FHEQ Level 5
Module Leader:	Professor Abigail Locke

Additional Tutors:

Pre-requisites:

Co-requisites:

Contact Hours

Type	Hours
Lectures	18
Tutorials	2
Laboratory	8
Directed Study	172

Availability Periods

Occurrence	Location/Period
BDA	University of Bradford / Semester 2 (Feb - May)

Module Aims

The module builds on 'Introduction to Research Methods in Psychology' and Critical and Philosophical Issues in Psychology studied in Year 1. Throughout the module you will be able to examine the philosophical underpinnings of psychological research and also consider the implications of these philosophical underpinnings in terms of the assumptions made about the social world and human behaviour. You will learn about the different criteria

used to assess research carried out using qualitative methods and develop knowledge and skills in qualitative research methods.

Outline Syllabus

- Understanding, interpreting and critically analysing the nature of science and scientific research.
- Methods of acquiring knowledge, outlining different paradigms and investigating qualitative research programmes.
- Critical approaches to psychology.
- Ethics and politics of research in psychology.
- Qualitative data collection: including interviewing, focus groups and documentary analysis.
- Different approaches to the analysis and presentation of qualitative data.

While these topics will be covered, some will necessarily be covered in more depth than others.

Module Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this module, students will be able to...

- 1 demonstrate an understanding of the main philosophical and conceptual issues underpinning psychological research and theory;
- 10 approach problem solving in a systematic way;
- 11 undertake self-directed study/project management in a supportive environment;
- 12 recognise the need to assess your own skills and to harness them for future learning;
- 13 recognise the value of knowledge and its ability to be transformative.
- 2 describe and evaluate a range of qualitative approaches in psychology.
- 3 apply your knowledge to design, collect and analyse qualitative data;
- 4 demonstrate an understanding of the social, moral and ethical implications of qualitative psychological research;
- 5 demonstrate an ability to reflect upon the connectedness of research design, practice and theory;
- 6 demonstrate the relationship between qualitative forms of evidence and psychological theory.
- 7 communicate ideas and research findings by effectively using a range of written, oral and visual means;
- 8 interpret and use qualitative forms of data;
- 9 be computer literate for the purposes of furthering your own learning and in the analysis and presentation of ideas/research findings;

Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy

This module uses a range of teaching and learning strategies. Lectures will be used to explore and examine some of the conceptual and historical issues underpinning major debates in psychology (LOs 1-6). In tutorials you will have the opportunity to extend your appreciation of contested theoretical issues (LOs 2). Assessed laboratory work, i.e. practical sessions are a central feature of this module enabling you to develop essential qualitative research methods skills (LOs 3, 5-11). Assessment task 1 assesses your ability to apply this understanding to their own data collection and analysis (LOs 1, 3, 4, 7, 9-12). Assessment task 2 examines the extent to which you have understood what comprises high quality research practice in the qualitative domain and tests LOs 1,2, 5, 6 & 8.

Mode of Assessment

Type	Method	Description	Length	Weighting	Final Assess'
Summative	Examination - open book or seen paper	1.5 hours open book examination assessing knowledge and understanding of the philosophy of research design - semester 1	1.5 hours	30%	No
Referral	Coursework	2500 word portfolio as original	0 hours	70%	No
Summative	Coursework	2500 word portfolio evidencing competencies developed during assessed lab sessions and summative qualitative analysis	0 hours	70%	Yes
Referral	Coursework	1500 word critical review of a new research article	0 hours	30%	No

Legacy Code (if applicable)

SY-5013L

Reading List

To view Reading List, please go to [rebus:list](#).