

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

NOTE: ANY CHANGES TO A CSD MUST GO THROUGH ALL OF THE RELEVANT APPROVAL PROCESSES, INCLUDING LTTC.

Academic School/Department:	Communications, Arts and Social Sciences
Programme:	Psychology
FHEQ Level:	4
Course Title:	Beginning Human Science Research
Course Code:	PSY 4200
Course Leader:	Prof George Berguno
Student Engagement Hours:	120
Lectures:	40
Seminar / Tutorials:	20
Independent / Guided Learning:	60
Semester:	Fall
Credits:	12 UK CATS credits 6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

Course Description:

Beginning Human Science Research introduces students to 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 reflect deeply about the experiential workshops, and to demonstrate their understanding by means of descriptive interpretations and thematic analyses on key topics.

Prerequisites: PSY 3100

Aims and Objectives:

The course takes the student step-by-step through the process of conducting a qualitative research project. Beginning with the philosophic foundations of five human science models (ethnography, grounded theory, hermeneutics, the Duquesne approach to phenomenology and Heuristics), the course offers methodological explications with practical examples based on the fundamentals of qualitative research. The course also shows the student how one

should orient oneself towards lived experience, how to construct human science research questions, and the need for a broad, systematic approach to gaining experiential material; including interviews, diaries, journals and art works. The course gives special attention to the use of narratives in human science research, how to conduct a literature review, how to select research participants, and the ethical principles that underlie qualitative research in psychology.

Programme Outcomes:

4A (i), 4B (i), 4 B(ii), 4C (ii), 4D (i), 4D (ii)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification. This is located at the Departmental/Schools page of the portal.

Learning Outcomes:

- Develop a theoretical and practical orientation to the study of lived experience
- Acquire critical and analytical thinking skills relevant to qualitative research
- Acquire a broad understanding of qualitative methodologies
- Develop the practical skills needed to carry out a qualitative research project to completion
- Develop an understanding of the kinds of ethical decisions made when working with human participants

Indicative Content:

- Human Science Perspectives & Models
- Formulating a Human Science Research Question
- How to Review the Professional Literature
- Working with Descriptions
- 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 Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms approved at Academic Council on June 28, 2012.

Teaching Methodology:

The course material will be covered in the following ways:

- I. Lectures on key topics
- II. Seminars & Discussions
- III. Practical sessions

