

## **COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT**

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

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Academic School/Department:</b> | Communications, Arts and Social Sciences              |
| <b>Programme:</b>                  | Psychology  |
| <b>FHEQ Level:</b>                 | 6   |
| <b>Course Title:</b>               | Senior Projects in Psychology II: Qualitative Methods |
| <b>Course Code:</b>                | PSY 6394  |
| <b>Course Leader:</b>              | Prof George Berguno                                   |
| <b>Student Engagement Hours:</b>   | 160   |
| Lectures:                          | 8   |
| Seminar / Tutorials:               | 22  |
| Independent / Guided Learning:     | 130   |
| <b>Semester:</b>                   | Spring  |
| <b>Credits:</b>                    | 24 UK CATS credits<br>12 ECTS credits<br>6 US credits |

### **Course Description:**

This is a course for graduating majors, providing students with the opportunity to conduct an extended piece of qualitative research in a specialized area of psychology. Students independently research, design, conduct, analyze, and report their research with guidance from the course tutor. The focus will be on qualitative methods: Amadeo Giorgi's empirical-phenomenological method, Strauss & Corbin's grounded theory procedures, hermeneutic approaches such as reflective life-world research; as well as contemporary research methods such as memory work and discursive psychology.

**Prerequisites:** PSY 4200 and PSY 5210

### **Aims and Objectives:**

The course provides students at the end of their university studies with an opportunity to conduct a systematic, qualitative research project that will integrate knowledge gained in prior psychology courses. It will familiarise students with the processes of collecting qualitative data, performing phenomenological analysis, and reflecting on its implications in regard to the psychological literature. The course also encourages self-management and personal development through collegial group work; and promotes personal and multicultural insights, which are an integral benefit of the disciplines and skills of a psychological training in the social sciences.

**Programme Outcomes:**

6A (iv), 6B (ii), 6B (iii), 6C (ii), 6D (i), 6D (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:**

- Acquire an in-depth knowledge of a variety of qualitative research methods
- Develop the ability to design a qualitative research project, collect data and complete data analysis
- Acquire critical and analytical thinking skills relevant to generating and carrying out research to completion
- To present qualitative research results both orally and in writing

**Indicative Content:**

Researching Lived Experience  
Empirical-Phenomenological Method  
Researching Social Processes  
Grounded Theory Procedures  
Researching Life-Worlds  
Hermeneutic Approaches  
Guided Existential Reflection  
How to Present Qualitative Research

**Assessment:**

The course is evaluated according to atypical assessment norms approved at Academic Council on 28 June 2012 as follows:

| Type of assessment                 | Length per item | Weighting per item | Total assessment                   |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| Literature review                  | 1500-2000       | 20%                | No final exam, senior year project |
| Qualitative Analysis               | 1500-2000       | 20%                |                                    |
| Final research paper               | 6000            | 50%                |                                    |
| Conference-style oral presentation | 1000            | 10%                | 6000-8000                          |

**Teaching Methodology:**

The course material will be covered in the following ways:

- I. Lectures on key topics
- II. Seminars and Tutorials
- III. Research Project

**Bibliography:**

