

School of Undergraduate Studies

Ambedkar University Delhi

Course Outline

Time Slot- 4hrs

Course Code: SHS201730

Title: Qualitative Research Methods

Type of Course: Discipline (Psychology)

Cohort for which it is compulsory: Masters Psychology (Psychosocial Clinical Studies)

Cohort for which it is elective: All other Master courses

No of Credits: 4

Semester and Year Offered: Semester 3 (Monsoon Semester 2018)

Course Coordinator and Team:

Email of course coordinator:

Pre-requisites: None

Aim:

Given the over-emphasis on quantitative kinds of research in present day psychology, this course on Qualitative Research aims to initiate inter-subjective kinds of research in the university which is influenced both by the Critical Psychology and Psychodynamic perspectives. It fits with the vision of the university to retrieve voices from the margins of society, from oppressed and dislocated populations. Within the course there is an emphasis for research to be more inclusive of the lives of traumatized individuals

Brief description of modules/ Main modules:

The course introduces students to the overall orientation and logic of qualitative research, the philosophical and theoretical foundations of qualitative research , broad schools of thought that informs such research as also the methods/strategies associated with these.

Aside from developing theoretical sensitivity, the course aims to provide a familiarity with the *practice* of research such as formulating a research problem, developing a research

strategy, the practical aspects of interviewing and observation as also qualitative data analysis.

In alignment with the programme/university vision emphasizing social justice and engagement with the “margins” (and the contemporary “8th moment in qualitative research” preoccupation with the same), the course will aim to sensitize students to the potential in research for political transformation. To this end, it will use as illustration for various methods, research that gives voice to the margins/ the “othered”/ the silenced. Interpretative frameworks such as feminist or disability studies and participatory research will be frameworks explored in the course.

Unit I Philosophical Foundations

Philosophical foundations of social science research: ontology, epistemology and methodology.

Paradigms of knowledge production (positivism, postpositivism, constructivism, critical theory, participatory research)

Unit II Logic of Inquiry in Qualitative Research

Overview of the elements of *research process/design*-Researcher’s self: reflexivity, role of values, and relationship between the researcher and researched - Criteria for evaluating qualitative research - Ethics of Research

Unit III : Theoretical Foundations

The Hermeneutic Tradition- Phenomenological tradition – Critical Theory Epistemologies

Unit IV Broad Strategies for Doing Qualitative Research (10 classes, 20 hours)

Ethnographic Methods- Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis - Narrative Method - Discourse analytic Methods-Psychoanalytic Approaches to Qualitative Research

Assessment Details with weights:

First assessment - Written assignments - Narrative and Film analysis (30%)

Second assessment – Written Examination (40%)

Classroom participation in analysis, discussions and debates (30%)

Reading List:

- Arribas-Ayllon, M. and Walkerdine, V. (2008) *Foucauldian discourse analysis*, in C. Willig ... (eds) *The Sage Handbook of Qualitative Research in Psychology*. London: Oxford: *Blackwell*.
- Chase, S. (2005) *Narrative inquiry: Multiple lenses, approaches, voices*. In Denzin, N.K. & Lincoln, Y.S. (eds) *The SAGE handbook of qualitative research*.
- Guba, E. G. and Lincoln, Y. S. (2005). *Paradigmatic controversies, Contradictions and Emerging Confluences*. In Denzin, N.K. & Lincoln, Y.S. (eds) *The SAGE handbook of qualitative research*.
- Frosh, S. and Saville-Young, L. (2008). *Psychoanalytic Approaches to Qualitative Psychology*. In Willig, C. and Stainton-Rogers, W. (eds.) *The Sage Handbook of Qualitative Research in Psychology*. London: Sage.
- Griffin, C., Bengry-Howell, A. (2007). *Ethnography*. In C. Willig and W. Stainton Rogers (eds.) *The Handbook of Qualitative Methods in Psychology*. London: Sage.
- Murray, M. (2015). *Narrative Psychology*, in J. A. Smith (eds) *Qualitative Psychology: A Practical Guide to Research Methods*. London: Sage.
- Smith, J. and Osborn, M. (2015). *Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis*. in J. A. Smith (eds) *Qualitative Psychology: A Practical Guide to Research Methods*. London: Sage.
- Tedlock, B. (2000). *Ethnography and Ethnographic representation*. In Denzin, N.K. & Lincoln, Y.S. (eds) *The SAGE handbook of qualitative research*.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE: