

<b>Module Details</b>	
<b>Module Title:</b>	Methodological Issues and Qualitative Research
<b>Module Code:</b>	PSY5012-B
<b>Academic Year:</b>	2019-20
<b>Credit Rating:</b>	20
<b>School:</b>	School of Social Sciences
<b>Subject Area:</b>	Psychology
<b>FHEQ Level:</b>	FHEQ Level 5
<b>Pre-requisites:</b>	
<b>Co-requisites:</b>	

<b>Contact Hours</b>	
<b>Type</b>	<b>Hours</b>
Lectures	19
Practical classes and workshops	2
Tutorials	2
Laboratory	8
Directed Study	169

<b>Availability</b>	
<b>Occurrence</b>	<b>Location / Period</b>
BDA	University of Bradford / Semester 2 (Feb - May)

<b>Module Aims</b>
<p>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. Additionally, you will be introduced to the empirical project that you will conduct in your final year, which can be either qualitative, quantitative or mixed methods.</p>

## 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.
- Introduction to final year empirical project, which can be either qualitative, quantitative or mixed methods.

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

## Learning Outcomes

1	demonstrate an understanding of the main philosophical and conceptual issues underpinning psychological research and theory;
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;
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.
14	Identify how you could get the best out of different potential supervisors and their areas of competence

## 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, 9-132). 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. The induction to the third-year empirical project will be done using a practical session and you still submit accounts of how you would get the most out of different potential supervisors and their areas of competence (LO14).

<b>Mode of Assessment</b>				
<b>Type</b>	<b>Method</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Length</b>	<b>Weighting</b>
Summative	Examination - open book or seen paper	1.5 hours open book examination assessing knowledge and understanding of the philosophy of research design	1.5 hours	30%
Referral	Coursework	1500 word critical review of a new research article	1500 words	30%
Summative	Coursework	2500 word portfolio evidencing competencies developed during assessed lab sessions and summative qualitative analysis	2500 words	70%
Formative	Coursework	Brief accounts of how you would make the most of the opportunity to work with (approximately 3) different potential supervisors and their areas of expertise.	500 words max per account (approximately 3 accounts)	%
Referral	Coursework	2500 word portfolio as original	2500 words	70%

### **Reading List**

To access the reading list for this module, please visit <https://bradford.rl.talis.com/index.html>.

*Please note:*

*This module descriptor has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but minor changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of*

*teaching. Upon commencement of the module, students will receive a handbook with further detail about the module and any changes will be discussed and/or communicated at this point.*