

SSB161 Qualitative Research Methods

BASIC INFORMATION

Lectures: Tuesdays 9-10 (no lecture week 7)

Practicals: Tuesdays 2-4, Tuesdays 4-6, Thursdays 12-2, Fridays 11-1, Fridays 1-3, Fridays 3-5 (you only attend one of these per week)

Website: <https://learn.lboro.ac.uk/login/index.php>

CONTACTS

Lecture instructor (responsible examiner): Jessica Robles (j.j.robles@lboro.ac.uk)

Practicals instructors (demonstrators): Scott Varney (s.varney@lboro.ac.uk), Kathrina Connabeer (K.Connabeer@lboro.ac.uk), Cristina Marinho (C.M.D.Marinho@lboro.ac.uk), Vani Naik (S.Naik@lboro.ac.uk), Ann Doehring (A.Doehring@lboro.ac.uk)

OVERVIEW: What's in this module guide?

- List of aims and content of the module (what you will learn): PAGE 1
- Explanation of learning outcomes (specifically, how you will learn what you learn): PAGE 2
- Outline of time breakdown of the module (how many hours it involves): PAGE 2
- Description of assessment (how the module will be marked): PAGES 3-4
- Schedule of module activities (basic calendar and deadlines): PAGE 5
- List of module resources (things that will help you): PAGE 6

Aims & Content

AIMS

The aim of this module is for students to develop a sophisticated theoretical and practical understanding of qualitative research methods in psychology. This means we will answer the questions:

- What philosophies and theories are associated with qualitative psychology research?
- How do psychologists conduct different kinds of qualitative research?
- How are data collected and analysed in different ways in qualitative research?

CONTENT

An indicative list of theory and practice, including methods of data collection and data analysis covered in the module, ethics committee and research design, consent, focus groups, online data collection, discursive psychology, conversation analysis, ethnography and grounded theory.

Therefore:

- You will learn standards of research ethics and design
- You will collect data based on ethnography, focus groups, and online data
- You will transcribe various types of data and code it for analysis
- You will analyse data based on grounded theory, discursive psychology, and conversation analysis
⇒ You will write an analysis essay and present a report on the basis of this list!

CONTENT ORGANIZATION

The content is divided up in the following way:

October-November Part I (weeks 1-5): Project Development & Data Collection

November-December Part II (weeks 6-11): Analysing & Writing Qualitative Research

Learning Outcomes & Teaching and Learning Time

LEARNING OUTCOMES: On completion of this module, students should be able to:

Knowledge and Understanding	
<p>*understand, select and evaluate critically different qualitative research methods for the investigation of psychological research topics.</p>	<p>=you will read about qualitative methods, learn to collect and analyse qualitative data, critique, and present qualitative research</p>
Skills and Other Attributes	
<p><u>Intellectual Skills:</u> *compare and contrast qualitative methods of data collection and analysis; *understand research designs and questions for different qualitative methods using different data.</p>	<p>=you will design and conduct, as well as compare and contrast, ethnographic research, focus group interviews, and collection of online data</p>
<p><u>Subject Practical Skills:</u> *execute qualitative methods of data collection and analysis in a project that examines an aspect of psychological life; *use computer software to work with qualitative data.</p>	<p>=you will collect and present research on some aspect of social life in psychology in a portfolio using software, in oral discussions during class, and in a final report submitted at the end of the term</p>
<p><u>Key / Transferable Skills:</u> *work effectively as a member of a small team of researchers; *produce ethics and consent forms and understand the work of ethics committees.</p>	<p>=you will use class time, out of class time, and software to analyse and present qualitative data, work in small groups, understand research ethics, and solve problems that occur along the way</p>

TEACHING AND LEARNING TIME

<p><u>Lecture:</u> 12 hours Weekly time spent in lecture (1 hour per week, 12 weeks)</p>	<p>> actual lecture time is 50 minutes per week for 10 weeks which adds up to 8.3 hours of lecture > remaining 3.7 hours are compensated with drop-in clinics</p>
<p><u>Practical classes and workshops:</u> 24 hours Weekly time spent in tutorials (2 hours per week, 12 weeks)</p>	<p>> actual practicals time is 2 hours per week for 11 weeks, which adds up to 22 hours of practicals > remaining 2 hours are compensated with drop-in clinics</p>
<p><u>Guided independent study:</u> 64 hours Readings: 46 hours Homework: 16 hours Other: 4 hours</p>	<p>> all times are approximate, based on an average estimation--you may take more or less time, personally. Hence, the 4-hour buffer. Those who need it should use it. Those who whip through can do more. Independent study hours are not equal week-to-week across the term!</p>

Total (actual) drop-in clinic hours: 19 hours available

Assessment & Marking

ASSESSMENT

The assessment for this module is based 100% on coursework. All other tasks and activities are designed to help you complete this coursework, even if they are not formally marked. Coursework is completed in research teams, with individual components.

Qualitative Portfolio (methods practical portfolio) 100%

- Qualitative Research Process (10%)
You will complete the majority of this work during practicals, but anything you do not finish you must complete on your own as homework. Readings and quizzes are also part of this process, but are not marked.
 - Project Proposal (group and individual activities))
 - Data Collection (group and individual activities)
 - Analysis (group and individual activities)
 - Analysis Draft (1 per person)
 - Peer Review (1 per person)

- Research Report (90%)

The Research Report reports the results of your research process.

- Research Report (1 per person)

>>>The module mark, which you will receive on your Research Report feedback, is based on all of these parts. The individual parts are not formally assessed. See below.

COURSEWORK MATRIX (note: you can always request more feedback individually):

Assessment	Where you do it/timeframe	How it's marked	Feedback
Qualitative Research Process (Practical Activities)			
Project Proposal (5 parts)	Practicals (homework if needed) over 2 weeks	Pass/fail in class (no contribution=no credit) >as long as you were involved in completing these tasks, and have the materials to show for it, you get full credit for participating.	Formative (informal) feedback in class: group & 1-on-1 discussions
Data Collection (8 parts)	Practicals (homework if needed) over 3 weeks		Formative feedback in class
Analysis (8 parts)	Practicals (homework if needed) over 5 weeks		Formative feedback & peer review in class
Analysis Draft	Homework (bring to practicals) over 1 week		Formative feedback & peer review in class
Peer Review	Practicals (homework if needed) over 1 week		Peer review in class
Research Report (Research Results)			
Research Report	Homework (upload to Learn)	According to the marking guidelines	Summative (formal) feedback: written

MARKING GUIDELINES

Marking is moderated by the responsible examiner. Basic structure:

Grade	First			Upper Second			Lower Second			Third			Fail			
%	95	85	75	68	65	62	58	55	52	48	45	42	35	25	15	0

The following are the general criteria used for marking essays:

1. *Relevance*: Does the essay answer the question?
2. *Clarity*: Does the essay follow a consistent and coherent argument?
3. *Structure*: Is the essay logically organised?
4. *Analysis*: Does the essay address various views in a comprehensive and critical fashion?
5. *Originality*: Does the essay include original illustrations/examples? Is there a distinctive, innovative synthesis of material?
6. *Use of Evidence*: Is evidence used accurately, critically and effectively?
7. *Comprehensiveness*: Is an appropriate range of reading and sources called upon?
8. *Presentation*: Is the essay legible, grammatical and fluent? If empirical data is included is it presented accurately and appropriately?
9. *References*: Are sources cited fully and correctly? Is a properly annotated bibliography attached?

Examples of poor academic practice such as plagiarism will be marked down. A detailed description of general marking criteria for coursework at Loughborough, and how this marking criteria is used to assess the essay in this module, are described on Learn.

There are a total of 22 parts to the coursework in this module, most of which are activities you do in your practical sessions. The Research Report is the piece that is formally assessed. Thus, the mark in the module is heavily weighted toward the Research Report. This is because that essay is the CULMINATION of all the other work. Since the other work is needed for the essay, you really cannot do one without the other.

Schedule & Deadlines

Weeks	Coursework	Deadlines
1	Project Proposal: methods protocol, ethics checklist, task division	All these parts of the coursework will be started, and possibly finished, during practicals. You are responsible for completing tasks if anything is unfinished. Tasks should always be completed before your NEXT practical. There is some wiggle room in some cases, but if you take longer for anything, you are responsible for sharing that asap to your group, and during practicals to your instructors. If you take so long that the project moves on without you, you may not have a chance to catch up, and may not receive credit. This would lower your mark.
2	Project Proposal: research area review, participant information sheet/consent forms Data Collection: observations, notes	
3	Data Collection: focus group recording, fieldnotes	
4	Data Collection: online data collection, focus group recording	
5	Data Collection: final fieldnotes, online data transcript, focus group transcript	
6	Analysis: codebook, coded data	
6	Analysis: grounded theory coding, discursive psychology and conversation analysis data session	
8	Analysis: grounded theory outline	
9	Analysis: discursive psychology outline	
10	Analysis: conversation analysis outline Analysis: Analysis draft	
11	Analysis: peer review Research Report	In practicals week 11 Report due 15 December 23:59

Matching Content, Schedule, Coursework and Goals: a basic summary

October-November Part I (weeks 1-5): Project Development & Data Collection

- Project Proposal
- Data Collection

>>In weeks 1-5 we focus on using methods to generate qualitative data in order to analyse the data.

November-December Part II (weeks 6-11): Analysing & Writing Qualitative Research

- Analysis
- Research Report

>>In weeks 6-11 we focus on using and comparing analytic methods to interpret data, generate qualitative findings, and write up a report.

Module Resources

The following are some resources for this module. Please contact us if there is anything you cannot find, do not understand, or would like to see made available.

WEBSITE

Log into Learn to access the module site: <https://learn.lboro.ac.uk/login/index.php>. The website contains all of the following materials:

- **Home Page**
 - Discussion thread: for any announcements, enquiries or discussions about the module; also a record of all emails sent to the class
 - Coursework submission: to submit the Research Report portion of your portfolio
 - Surveys/module feedback: any surveys or module feedback requested from you (during midterm and at the end of the term) will appear here
 - Feedback for students: any general feedback (responses to surveys, comments on coursework for the whole class, suggestions, etc.) will also appear here
- **Essential Module Resources**
 - Module guide (this is what you are reading now)
 - Calendar: a detailed calendar of our module
 - Instructor contact information: lecture and practicals instructors' details
 - Glossary of terms: key terms and definitions used in the module
- **Coursework Resources**
 - Coursework schedule: a more detailed version of the schedule in this guide
 - Coursework instructions: all the instructions also in the content areas
 - Research Report instructions: for the final essay you submit week 11
 - Format guide: APA format standards to be used in your final essay
 - Marking criteria: marking criteria from this guide, tailored to the essay
 - Readings: a folder of essential module readings
- **Content: each part of the module & what you need for it**
 - Lectures: lecture slides and recordings of lecture
 - Practicals & coursework: practicals slides and materials, coursework instructions
 - Templates and examples for coursework: examples to help you
 - Readings: a list of essential and optional readings

Other links in the Learn page:

- ReView: direct link to the lecture capture system (recordings of our lectures)
- Reading list: a link to any books required for the module; other readings are linked in the content areas
- Staff contact details: list of instructors and links to their webpages
- Module specifications: list of aims, learning outcomes, etc. that are part of the official requirements of this module; same as described in the first sections of this guide

Additional Resources

Library support: <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/services/library/students/learningsupport/>

Timetable: https://lucas.lboro.ac.uk/its_apx/f?p=250:LOGIN:1218305358589

Email: <http://office365.lboro.ac.uk>

Student services: <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/services/student-services/support/>

Student handbook: <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/students/welcome/handbook/>

Technology services: <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/services/it/>