

PSY – 216: Academic Writing and Research Methods (3 CHs)

Pre-requisite: None

Course Description:

The course is designed to help students to understand approaches, methods, and designs in qualitative and quantitative research for applied purposes.

Course Objectives:

The course will facilitate students to:

- Understand philosophies of research design
- Understand various aspects of quantitative research processes.
- Develop understanding of prevalent qualitative research designs, methodologies, research software and measurement strategies.
- Apply research concepts and principles in the development and use of quantitative and qualitative methodologies.
- Develop sensitivity towards ethical issues involved in research of psychology.

Course Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Differentiate between the nature of a qualitative and a quantitative research question, methodologies, applications.
- Design and conduct research studies using advances quantitative and qualitative research design.
- Critically evaluate existing psychological research and identify research gaps.

Course Contents:

- Research philosophies
- Starting the inquiry
 - Knowing about research
 - Exploration, description, and exploration
 - Knowing whom to research
 - Unit of analysis
 - Knowing how to research
 - Literature review
 - Secondary analysis
 - Knowing when to research
 - The importance of time
 - Research designs
- Quantitative Research Method
 - Different Research designs (Non experimental and experimental research design)

- Identifying & formulating a research problem
- Choosing the topic
- Developing the questions
- Hypothesis-testing versus exploratory research questions some types of research questions
- Literature review
- Variables: definitions and measurements
- Sampling and ethics
- Academic Writing
- Ethical issues
- Understanding of different research designs through articles in Pakistan

Note: The last two sections require more time than the first sections and therefore the instructors shall plan teaching plans accordingly.

Textbook:

- Goodwin, K. A., & Goodwin, C. J. (2016). Research in psychology: Methods and design. John Wiley & Sons.

Reference Books:

- Langdrige, D., & Hagger-Johnson, G. (2009). Introduction to research methods and data analysis in psychology. Pearson Education.
- Barker, C., Pistrang, N., & Elliott, R. (2015). Research methods in clinical psychology: An introduction for students and practitioners. John Wiley & Sons.
- Shaughnessy, J. J., Zechmeister, E. B., & Zechmeister, J. S. (2005). Research methods in psychology. (5th ed.). Singapore: McGraw-Hill.
- Any other material: Relevant articles, interactive videos, etc. will be furnished throughout the course

Textbooks:

- Atkinson, P., & Delamont, S. (Eds.). (2010). SAGE qualitative research methods. Sage.
- Savin-Baden, M., & Howell Major, C. (2013). Qualitative Research: The Essential Guide to Theory and Practice (1st ed.). Routledge.

Reference Books:

- Shaughnessy, J. J., Zechmeister, E. B., & Zechmeister, J. S. (2005). Research methods in psychology (5th ed.). Singapore: McGraw-Hill.
- Creswell, J. W. (2014) Research design: Qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods approach. 4th Ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.