

**DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY**

**M.A. Psychology**

*Structure-I (2- Year PG Program)*

**DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC CORE COURSE**

**SEMESTER II**

**DSC 203: QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS**

**CREDIT DISTRIBUTION, ELIGIBILITY AND PRE-REQUISITE OF THE COURSE**

Course Title & Code	Total Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility Criteria/ Prerequisite
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical	
DSC 203 Qualitative Research Methods	4	3	0	1	Graduation in any stream

**Marks:100**

**Hours: 60**

**Credit: 4 (Lectures + Internal Assessment + Practical)**

This course provides an in-depth exploration of **qualitative research methodologies**, focusing on their philosophical foundations, data collection techniques, analytical frameworks, and emerging approaches. Students will learn how to **design, conduct, and critically evaluate qualitative research** in interdisciplinary contexts, with an emphasis on ethical considerations and real-world applications.

Through a combination of **theoretical learning, fieldwork, and digital tools**, this course will equip students with the necessary skills to conduct **rigorous, context-sensitive research** across multiple disciplines.

**Learning Objectives:**

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

1. **Understand** the philosophical foundations of qualitative research and its role in social inquiry.
2. **Apply** different qualitative research methodologies, including ethnography, interviews, and case studies.
3. **Critically assess** the ethical and methodological challenges in qualitative research.
4. **Analyze** qualitative data using established methods such as thematic analysis, discourse analysis, and narrative analysis.
5. **Evaluate** the validity and credibility of qualitative research findings using criteria like trustworthiness and reflexivity.
6. **Develop** and execute a qualitative research project, including data collection, coding, and reporting.

**Learning Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. **Differentiate** between qualitative and quantitative research paradigms.

2. **Design and implement** qualitative research studies with a clear research question, methodology, and data collection strategy.
3. **Conduct** fieldwork using ethnographic methods, interviews, and participatory action research techniques.
4. **Analyze qualitative data** using thematic, narrative, and conversational analysis techniques.
5. **Evaluate the rigor and ethical considerations** of qualitative research.
6. **Apply qualitative methodologies** to real-world problems in psychology, health, education, and policy research.

### **Course Content:**

**Unit 1: Foundations of Qualitative Research: Philosophical Foundations:** Ontology, Epistemology, Axiology; **Research Design: Formulating Research Questions, Sampling Strategies; Role of the Researcher:** Reflexivity, subject-object relationship, researcher's self; **Power & Ethics:** Voices and Silence, Positionality, Ethical Dilemmas; **Validity & Reliability in Qualitative Research:** Trustworthiness, Credibility, Triangulation **(10 Hours)**

**Unit 2: Field-Based Methods: Grounded Theory:** Coding, Constant Comparison, Theory Development; **Ethnography:** Thick Description, Participant Observation, Field Notes; **Interview & Cooperative Inquiry:** Structured, Semi-Structured, and Unstructured Interviews; **Observation Method:** Non-participant vs. Participant, Field Notes, Recording & Analysis; **Action Aid Research:** Participatory Action Research (PAR) and its applications and Ethical Challenges **(10 Hours)**

**Unit 3: Text-Based Methods (Basic & Advanced): Qualitative Data Analysis Approaches:** Thematic Analysis, Iterative Thematic Inquiry and Discourse Analysis, Narrative Analysis and Conversational Analysis; **Specialized Text Methods:** Life History & Case Study, Rhetorical Analysis, Psycho-biographies & Psycho-historical Methods, Auto-ethnographies & Autobiographies **(10 Hours)**

**Unit 4: Advanced and Emerging Methodologies in Qualitative Research: Phenomenology:** Existential and Transcendental Approaches; **Gender Methodology:** Feminist & Intersectional Qualitative Research; **Psychoanalytic Methodology:** Unconscious, Subjectivity, and Memory in Research; **Painting with data; Digital & Visual Methodologies:** Digital Ethnography, Arts-Based & Media Research, Visual Analytic Technique **(10 Hours)**

**Practicum – Applying Qualitative Research Skills:** Designing a Qualitative Research Study; Conducting and Documenting Fieldwork; Qualitative Data Coding & Analysis (Using NVivo, ATLAS.ti, or Manual Methods); Writing & Presenting a Qualitative Research Report **(20 Hours)**

### **Essential Readings:**

1. Balmer, A. (2021). Painting with data: Alternative aesthetics of qualitative research. *The Sociological Review*, 69(6), 1143-1161.
2. Braun, V., & Clarke, V. (2021). *Thematic Analysis: A Practical Guide*. SAGE Publications.

3. Creswell, J. W., & Poth, C. N. (2018). *Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design: Choosing Among Five Approaches* (4th ed.). SAGE Publications.
4. Denzin and Lincoln. *Handbook of Qualitative Research Method*.
5. Gee, J. P. (2014). *An Introduction to Discourse Analysis: Theory and Method* (4th ed.). Routledge.
6. Kara, H. (2020). *Creative Research Methods: A Practical Guide*. Eds. Second. Bristol University Press.
7. Lepistö, L., Lepistö, S., & Kallio, K. M. (2021). Unpacking data analytics: rhetorical analysis. *Technology Analysis & Strategic Management*, 35(8), 993–1004.
8. Morgan, D. L., & Nica, A. (2020). Iterative Thematic Inquiry: A New Method for Analyzing Qualitative Data. *International Journal of Qualitative Methods*, 19.
9. MacLure, M., Holmes, R., Jones, L., & MacRae, C. (2010). Silence as Resistance to Analysis: Or, on Not Opening One’s Mouth Properly. *Qualitative Inquiry*, 16(6), 492-500. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1077800410364349> (Original work published 2010)
10. Poland, B., and A. Pederson. 1998. “Reading Between The Lines: Interpreting Silences In Qualitative Research”. *Qualitative Inquiry*, 4 (2), 293-312.