



DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH

K9F2674 Practical Approaches to Qualitative Research - Based on Blended Learning, 7.5 credits (hec)

Praktiska tillvägagångssätt för kvalitativ forskning - baserat på blended learning, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Third-cycle level / Forskarnivå

Approval

This syllabus is approved by the The Committee for Doctoral Education on 2023-11-02, and is valid from Spring semester 2024.

Responsible department

Department of Global Public Health, Faculty of Medicine

Prerequisite courses, or equivalent

No prerequisite courses, or equivalent, demanded for this course.

Purpose & Intended learning outcomes

Purpose

Qualitative research is a powerful widely used methodology that allows researchers to understand why and how an event occurs in a given context. However, many health scientists are unfamiliar with theories and methods used in qualitative research. This course will contribute to fill this knowledge gap by providing the participants with practical skills to design, conduct, analyze and report qualitative studies.

Intended learning outcomes

- Design a qualitative study including selecting the appropriate sampling procedure and data collection methods.
 - Develop the data instruments including interview/focus groups discussions guides and observation protocols.
 - Conduct the fieldwork.
 - Analyze the data.
 - Write up the findings.
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- Critically discuss others' qualitative research, e.g. described in research proposals and manuscripts.

Course content

- Background on qualitative methodology.
- Theory of qualitative research.
- Sampling in qualitative research.
- Designing an interview/discussion guide.
- Ethical considerations in qualitative research.
- Writing a research protocol.
- Data collection methods (in-depth interviews, focus groups discussions and observation).
- Alternative methods of data collection.
- Analysis of qualitative data.
- Trustworthiness and validity.
- Other approaches to interpretation: Phenomenology, narrative research, oral history.
- Qualitative research in evaluation.
- Critical review of literature.
- Ongoing development as qualitative researcher.

Forms of teaching and learning

The course will be taught with a blended learning approach, which will combine self-study and face-to-face practical training sessions. Students will be able to access course materials and interact with each other through a common e-learning platform. Practical sessions will be conducted face-to-face where a theoretical and practical training will be provided in the three dominant qualitative data collection methods, including discussion of examples used in studies. In addition, the students will conduct individual assignments that will allow them to improve their skills.

Language of instruction

The course is given in English.

Grading scale

Pass (G) /Fail (U)

Compulsory components & forms of assessment

Compulsory components

Participation in practical sessions, on-line lectures and discussions is compulsory. Non-participation will result in additional assignments at the discretion of the course tutor.

Forms of assessment

Four assignments are to be done during the course. The first three assignments will take the students through a full mini research project. The first assignment will be to write a qualitative

research protocol, the second to conduct two individual depth interviews and transcribe these and the third to analyze the interview transcripts. The fourth assignment will be to write a critical review of a published qualitative paper.

There will be a written examination at the end of the course, which will be emailed to the students to be returned within 48 hours.

In order to obtain a pass for the whole course, students must obtain a pass in the four assignments and in the written examination.

Course literature

RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS:

Silverman, D. (Ed) (2010) *Qualitative Research: Theory, Method and Practice* (3rd ed). Sage Publications: London. [Van Schaik R489.95; Kalahari.com R454.72]

Durrheim, K., TerreBlanche, M. & Painter, D. (2010) *Research in Practice: Applied Methods for the Social Sciences* (2nd ed). University of Cape Town Press: Cape Town. [Van Schaik 438.95; Kalahari.com R594.22]

FURTHER RECOMMENDED READING:

Pope, C. & Mays, N. (2006). *Qualitative Research In Health Care*. Wiley Blackwell.

Ulin, P., Robinson, E. & Tolley, E. (2005) *Qualitative Methods in Public Health: A Field Guide for Applied Research*. Jossey-Bass: San Francisco.

Davies, M.B. (2007). *Doing a successful research project: Using qualitative or quantitative methods*. Palgrave Macmillan: London.

Silverman, D. (2005) *Doing Qualitative Research*. Sage Publications: London.

Cresswell, J. (2006). *Qualitative Inquiry And Research Design: Choosing Among Five Traditions*. Sage Publications: London.