

Module Code	ECSO5003
Title	Research Methods for the Social Sciences
Date	27/03/2019
Level	5
Credits	20
Pre-Requisites	None

AIM(S)

- To provide students with the knowledge and understanding of the importance of understanding the basis of, and limitations of, empirical research, to appreciate commonly used methods and ethical principles within the social research framework.
- To develop skills both as readers of existing research and researchers in practice.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon the successful completion of this module, the student should be able to:

- critically reflect upon how quantitative and qualitative methodology and methods contribute to research and practice; and understand the differing requirements associated with these approaches;
- explore in-depth ethical considerations involved in the planning and undertaking research in the social sciences;
- demonstrate a critical understanding the strengths and limitations of a range of data collection methods and forms of data analysis;
- critically evaluate the features and characteristics of concepts such as rigor, validity, generalizability, trustworthiness and reliability of data collection techniques as appropriate to quantitative and qualitative approaches.

INDICATIVE CONTENT

- Explore a range of methodological positions and consider the implications for research in practice; explore the strengths and weaknesses of quantitative, qualitative and mixed methodologies. Understand that methods contribute to research and practice; and understand the differing requirements associated with these approaches. Exploration of the meaning and application of terminology such as Paradigm, Ontology, Epistemology, Methodology, Methods and Analysis.
- Explore in-depth ethical considerations involved in the planning and undertaking research in the social sciences. Consider the positionality of the researcher and the context of the participant/context. Exploration of personal bias and positions in regards to the research design process.
- Evaluate the features and characteristics of concepts such as rigor, validity, generalizability, trustworthiness and reliability of data collection techniques as appropriate to quantitative and qualitative approaches.

Study Time Allocation

The study time for the module is divided as follows:

Activity type	Hours	Percentage
Scheduled learning	30	15%
Independent learning	170	85%
Placement learning	0	0%
TOTAL	200	100%

ASSESSMENT

Assessment Component 1

☐ Written exam ☒ Coursework ☐ Practical

Mode of assessment	Volume	Weighting
Essay	2000 words	50%

Assessment Component 2

☐ Written exam ☒ Coursework ☐ Practical

Mode of assessment	Volume	Weighting
Essay	2000 words	50%

Assessment Summary

Activity type	Percentage
Written exam	
Coursework	100%
Practical	
TOTAL	100%

READING LIST

Module Code	ECSO5003	
Module Title	Research Methods for the Social Sciences	
Classification	Reading List entry	Electronic*
Essential	Punch KF (2014) <i>Introduction to Social Research: Quantitative and Qualitative Approaches</i> , AUS: Sage.	☐
Essential	Kara, H (2015) <i>Creative Research Methods in the Social Sciences: A Practical Guide</i> , Bristol: Policy Press.	☐
Essential	Creswell JW & Creswell JD (2018) <i>Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches</i> , London: Sage.	
Further	Cohen, L. and Manion, L. (2017) <i>Research Methods in Education</i> , London: Routledge.	☐
Further	Liao, TF (2016) <i>Sociological Methodology</i> , AUS: Sage.	☐
	Lahman MKE (2018) <i>Ethics in Social Science Research: Becoming Culturally Responsive</i> , London: Sage.	
Further	Israel, M (2014) <i>Research Ethics and Integrity for Social Scientists: Beyond Regulatory Compliance</i> , Washington: Sage.	☐
Further	Bell, J. (2010) <i>Doing Your Research Project: a guide for first time researchers in education and social science</i> , (4th ed) Buckingham: Open University Press.	☐

Further	Mason, J. (2002) <i>Qualitative Researching</i> , London: Sage.	☐
Further	Mauther, M. Birch, M. Jessop, J. & Miller, T. (2017) <i>Ethics in Qualitative Research</i> , London: Sage.	☐
Further	Ritchie, J. & Lewis, J. (2013) <i>Qualitative Research Practice</i> , London: Sage.	☐
Further	Denzin NK & Lincoln YS (2012) <i>Strategies of Qualitative Inquiry</i> , USA	☐
Further	Denzin NK & Lincoln YS (2012) <i>The Landscape of Qualitative Research: Theories and Issues</i> , USA	☐
Further	Denzin NK & Lincoln YS (2012) <i>Collecting and Interpreting Qualitative Materials</i> , USA	☐
Further	Denzin NK & Lincoln YS (2011) <i>The SAGE Handbook of Qualitative Research</i> , USA	☐