

**Institute of Social & Cultural Studies  
Faculty of Behavioral & Social Sciences  
University of the Punjab, Lahore  
Course Outline**



<b>Programme</b>	BS Demography	<b>Course Code</b>	DEM310	<b>Credit Hours</b>	3
<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Qualitative Research Methods</b>				

**Course Objectives**

Qualitative research is a multi-methods approach to the study of social interactions in natural settings. It involves the collection and analysis of empirical information from multiple sources such as first-person accounts, life histories, visual records, semi-structured and open-ended interviews, informal and formal observations, biographical and autobiographical materials, among others. Through triangulation of methods, the researcher attempts to make sense of, or interpret, phenomena in terms of the meanings people attribute.

This course is intended to provide the student with the basic skills needed to do qualitative research. Qualitative research focuses on understanding, rather than predicting or controlling, phenomena. It is usually contrasted with traditional experimental and statistical research and is felt by many to be more appropriate to the study of human life. Students will gain a thorough knowledge of the entire research process from developing the idea, selecting methods, and analyzing the results. The scientific method is viewed as an approach towards problem-solving, critical thinking and acquiring knowledge. Thus, in their role as researchers, students will be expected to utilize this knowledge base to develop independent research projects.

**Proposal:**

Students will be expected to develop a research proposal. This includes the selection of a topic, preparing a focused literature review, developing specific research questions and designing a research strategy to investigate research areas.

**Presentation:**

Proposals will be presented to the class for comments and discussions. A professional presentation style is encouraged, using either PowerPoint or overhead transparencies. The presentation should be approximately 30 minutes long.

**Content**

- Qualitative Research Methods: An overview
- Alternatives to Social Research
- Research Process
- Qualitative Vs Quantitative Research
  
- Dimensions of Research Data Collection Techniques
- Theory and Research What is Theory?
- Social Theory Vs Ideology Parts of Theory
- Facts Vs Theory Theory and Research
- The Meanings of Methodology Approaches
- Positivist Social Science Interpretive Social Science
- The Meanings of Methodology: Approaches (Continued) Critical Social Science

- Feminist and Postmodern Research
- Literature Review
- Why conduct a literature review?How to conduct systematic
- Research Design: An overview
- Qualitative Orientation
- Characteristics of Qualitative ResearchMidterm Exam
- Field Research
- History of Field ResearchLogic of Field Research
- Field Research (Continued) Choosing Site and Gaining AccessRelations in the Field
- Observing and Collecting Data
- The field Research InterviewLeaving the Field
- Ethics of Field Research
- Historical-Comparative Research: An OverviewLogic of Historical-Comparative Research Steps of Historical-Comparative Research
- Data and Evidence
- Historical-Comparative Research (Continued)Comparative Research
- Equivalence
- Ethics of Historical-Comparative Research
- Analyzing Qualitative DataConcept Formulation Methods
- Missing and Negative EvidenceDiagrams and other Tools

## READING

Neuman, W. Lawrence (1991). Social Research Methods: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches (3<sup>rd</sup>Ed.). Boston: Allyn Bacon.

Assessment & Examination	Sr. No.	Elements	Weightage	Details
	1	Midterm Assessment	35%	It take place at the mid-point of the Semester
	2	Formative Assessment	25%	It is continuous assessment. It includes classroom participation, attendance, assignments, presentations, homework, attitude and behavior, hands-on-activities, short tests, quizzes etc.
	3	Final Assessment	40%	It take place at the end of the semester. It is mostly in the form of test, but owing to the nature of the course the teacher may assess their students based on term paper, research proposal development, field work and report writing etc.

