

## Course Description

# Qualitative Research Methods

Credits 3

Contact hours 0

Independent work hours 114

Year 1

Format of studying blended learning

The course “Qualitative Research Methods” is taught on educational online platform “Coursera.org”. The course is taught in the 3-4 modules on the 1st year of study.

### About this course

In this course you will be introduced to the basic ideas behind the qualitative research in social science. You will learn about data collection, description, analysis and interpretation in qualitative research. Qualitative research often involves an iterative process. We will focus on the ingredients required for this process: data collection and analysis.

You won't learn how to use qualitative methods by just watching video's, so we put much stress on collecting data through observation and interviewing and on analysing and interpreting the collected data in other assignments.

Obviously, the most important concepts in qualitative research will be discussed, just as we will discuss quality criteria, good practices, ethics, writing some methods of analysis, and mixing methods.

We hope to take away some prejudice, and enthuse many students for qualitative research.

### Course contents

- 1. Philosophy of Qualitative Research.** Welcome to the first week of the course. We start with an introduction, followed by two lessons on the Philosophy of Qualitative Research.
- 2. Observation.** In the first module we discussed the philosophy of qualitative research, explaining some basic notions and general philosophical approaches. In this second module we'll discuss observation as an important method within qualitative research. What types of observation are there? How do we observe? And how do we analyse and describe our data?
- 3. Good Practices & Criteria.** What makes qualitative research 'good' is a rather difficult question. Different criteria are suggested, but within the field of qualitative research there is not much agreement on these criteria. However, there is quite some agreement on what good practices of qualitative research are. In this module we will start in lesson 1 with a discussion of good practices of qualitative research.
- 4. Qualitative Interviewing.** In this module we'll look at what a qualitative interview entails by trying to define it and by discussing different forms of interviewing behaviour.

**5. Qualitative Analysis.** In previous modules we discussed how you should observe a social situation or conduct a qualitative interview. Now we will focus on what to do with your data, by discussing qualitative analysis. In this module you will try to do a qualitative analysis by interpreting your observed data and try to code it.

**6. Writing, mixing & ethics.** In this module I will discuss ideas on writing in qualitative research, I will discuss mixing methods and talk about the ethical issues you should consider.

**7. Catch up week.** In this module there's no new material. The only requirement in this module is that you finish up the final peer review assignment.

**8. Exam week.** This is the final module, where you can apply everything you've learned up until now in the final exam. Please note that you can only take the final exam once every day, so make sure you are fully prepared to take the test. Please follow the honor code and do not communicate or confer with others taking this exam. Good luck! Once you've taken the exam, please consider doing the other courses in our specialisation track. I hope it was an enjoyable experience. If it was, please consider joining in with the Massive Open Online Research by my colleague Christian Bröer. Thanks for all your hard work, feedback and interpretations, the course team and your fellow learners really appreciate it!

### Forms of control

The grade for this course ( $G_{\text{final}}$ ) is made up of the grade for the online-course ( $G_{\text{onlinecourse}}$ ) and final exam ( $G_{\text{exam}}$ ).

The formula for calculating the final grade is the following:

$$G_{\text{final}} = 0,8 \cdot G_{\text{online-course}} + 0,2 \cdot G_{\text{exam}}.$$

### Basic resources

Discipline studies are carried out by students independently on the basis of an online course "Qualitative Research Methods" <https://www.coursera.org/learn/qualitative-methods>.

### Software

№	Name	Access conditions
1.	Microsoft Windows 7 Professional RUS	From the university's internal network (contract)
2.	Microsoft Office Professional Plus 2010	From the university's internal network (contract)

### Professional databases, information reference systems, Internet resources (electronic educational resources)

№	Name	Access conditions
	Internet resources (electronic educational resources)	
1.	Coursera	URL: <a href="https://www.coursera.org/">https://www.coursera.org/</a>

### Technical Support for the Course

The classrooms for self-study in the discipline are equipped with personal computers with the ability to connect to the Internet and access to the electronic information and educational environment of the HSE.