

COURSE OUTLINE

Course Code / Title : HA3033 Qualitative Research Methods for Public Affairs

Pre-requisites : HA1003

No. of AUs. : 3

Contact Hours : 39

Course Aims

Qualitative research is an essential tool for deeper probing of diverse social phenomena and for designing effective public management strategies and policies. In the public administration and policy areas, narratives, case studies, observations, and more recently, focus groups have contributed insight and depth to our understanding of the structural, managerial, and environmental factors embedded in the public sector. Given this, you, as an independent researcher, need to understand the philosophy of qualitative, non-statistical social science research, focusing on how to design methods of qualitative research and how to conduct the analysis. The main objective of this course is not only to empower you to critically consume research through various forms of qualitative methods, but also to provide the fundamental skills for their own future rigorous research work (e.g., final year project). More specifically, while studying different qualitative inquiry approaches, you will be able to create a rationale for a qualitative inquiry that will be applicable to their research (or a hypothetical one) and to conduct qualitative research with data production (e.g., interviews, case studies, and observations). Lastly, you will be able to analyze and interpret their data using content or another discourse analytic technique.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

1. Identify the various studies that are appropriate for a qualitative research design
2. Conduct qualitative inquiry approaches in accordance with your own research agenda in your interests (in ways of designing the research and generating and collecting qualitative data)
3. Interpret, evaluate and present qualitative data in the class and written assignments
4. Develop an original qualitative research proposal

Course Content

This course is organized along the following themes: (1) introduction of qualitative research, (2) research proposal outline, (3) developing and designing qualitative research, (4) observation studies, (5) interviews, (6) discourse and narrative research, (7) analysis of verbal data, (8) video data analysis, (9) case study, (10) content analysis, and (11) mixed methods.

Course Assessment

Final Research Paper	: 40%
CA1 – Class Participation	: 10%
CA2 – Class Leading	: 20%
CA3 – Observation Assignment	: 15%
CA4 – Interview Assignment	: 15%
Total	----- 100%