

## **Course Description**

### **MEDD8924 Understanding Subjective Experience through Q Methodology and Narrative Inquiry**

<b>Course description</b>	
<p>This course offers a deep dive into the realm of qualitative research, focusing on the shared goal of understanding human subjectivity through the complementary lenses of Q Methodology and Narrative Inquiry. The course facilitates a thorough examination of these two distinct, yet interconnected, research techniques, each dedicated to capturing the complexity of individual and collective experiences. Throughout the course, students will engage in hands-on projects, critically evaluate research studies, and develop skills in both Q Methodology and Narrative Inquiry. This course is ideal for those aiming to apply qualitative research methods in fields such as psychology, sociology, education, and beyond. It provides essential tools and perspectives for those aiming to articulate the intricacies of human thoughts, beliefs, and experiences, emphasising the synthesis of qualitative rigour and quantitative precision in exploring the spectrum of subjective realities.</p>	
<b>Course objectives</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Understand the Theoretical Foundations: Gain a deep understanding of the theoretical underpinnings of Q Methodology and Narrative Inquiry, and how they contribute to qualitative research.</li> <li>2. Develop Research Skills: Learn to design, implement, and analyze research using Q Methodology and Narrative Inquiry, emphasizing ethical considerations and methodological rigor.</li> <li>3. Critical Analysis and Application: Critically analyze existing studies using these methodologies and understand their application in various social science disciplines.</li> <li>4. Data Interpretation and Presentation: Develop skills in interpreting qualitative data and presenting findings in a scholarly manner, suitable for academic and professional audiences.</li> <li>5. Innovative Research Design: Encourage innovative thinking in the development of research designs that effectively utilize Q Methodology and Narrative Inquiry.</li> <li>6. Interdisciplinary Integration: Explore the integration of these methodologies in an interdisciplinary context, demonstrating their applicability across different fields of study.</li> </ol>	
<b>Course learning outcomes (CLOs)</b>	<b>Aligned programme learning outcomes (PLOs)</b>
1. Explain Key Concepts: Articulate the key principles and concepts of Q Methodology and Narrative Inquiry.	PLOs 1, 2, 3, 4
2. Design and Conduct Research: Independently design and conduct a qualitative research study using either Q Methodology or Narrative Inquiry, demonstrating an understanding of ethical research practices.	PLOs 1-5
3. Analyze Qualitative Data: Analyze qualitative data effectively using appropriate techniques and software tools, interpreting results in the context of the chosen methodology.	PLOs 3, 4, 5
4. Critically Evaluate Research: Critically evaluate the use of Q Methodology and Narrative Inquiry in published research, identifying strengths, limitations, and areas for improvement.	PLOs 3, 4, 5
5. Effective Communication: Effectively communicate research processes and findings, both orally and in writing, using appropriate academic conventions.	PLOs 1, 2
6. Apply Cross-disciplinary Approaches: Demonstrate the ability to apply these methodologies in a cross-disciplinary context, showing an understanding of their broader relevance and potential applications.	PLOs 1-5
7. Innovate in Research Design: Display innovation and creativity in the development of research designs that effectively utilize the strengths of Q Methodology and Narrative Inquiry.	PLOs 1, 3, 4, 5
<b>Course assessment methods</b>	

Assessment method	Weighting
Participation and engagement	20%
Presentation	40%
Essay	40%
<b>Course content and topics</b>	
Introduction to Qualitative Research and Course Overview Theoretical Foundations of Q Methodology Implementing Q Methodology Data Analysis in Q Methodology Theoretical Foundations of Narrative Inquiry Conducting Narrative Inquiry Analyzing and Interpreting Narratives	
<b>Required / recommended readings and online materials</b>	
Shinebourne, P. (2009). Using Q Method in Qualitative Research. <i>International Journal of Qualitative Methods</i> , 8(1), 93-97. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1177/160940690900800109">https://doi.org/10.1177/160940690900800109</a> McKeown, B., & Thomas, D. B. (2013). Q methodology (Vol. 66). Sage publications. Clandinin, D. J., & Connelly, F. M. (2004). Narrative inquiry: Experience and story in qualitative research. John Wiley & Sons.	
<b>Other additional course information</b>	
Advanced Research Method course	