



LEAD CITY UNIVERSITY
Faculty of Social and Management Sciences
Department of Sociology and Psychology

COURSE PARTICULARS

Course Code: PSY 311
Course Title: Research Methods
No. of Units: 3
Status: Compulsory

LECTURER DETAILS

Name: Floretta Akingbade
Qualifications: PhD Social Psychology
Phone: 0803 323 4042
Email: retta_akingbade@yahoo.com
Area of Specialization: Women's Response to Conflict Stereotypical Perceptions and discriminatory practices towards women; Reproductive Health Research

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course is designed to be a practical class introducing students to the use of quantitative and qualitative research methods in psychology. The course will examine the strengths and weaknesses of quantitative and qualitative research. It will also address the steps required in conceptualizing research and research language

COURSE OBJECTIVES

To teach students the following:

- Think critically about research, scientific approach to research and research terminology
- conceptualize/articulate a research problem and select the most appropriate research method to address it
- Identify the best methods for investigating different types of research problems and questions
- Understand differences between quantitative and qualitative research
- Develop research skills through examples of research studies in peer reviewed journals

COURSE ASSESSMENT

- Class Attendance: 5 Marks
- Tests and Assignment: 25 Marks

- Final Examination: 70 Marks

LECTURE PLAN

| Week | Topic |
|---------|--|
| Week 1 | Introduction -definition and purpose of research; Basic terms and concepts |
| Week 2 | Conceptual framework, Theory and Review of Related Studies |
| Week 3 | Quantitative methods (Experiments; Archival Research, Diary Studies) |
| Week 4 | Quantitative Methods (Surveys, Correlational Studies) |
| Week 5 | Quantitative Methods (Longitudinal Studies, Cross Sectional Studies) |
| Week 6 | Qualitative research methods (Interviews, observational studies) |
| Week 7 | Qualitative research methods (FGDs, IDIs, KIIs) |
| Week 8 | Hypotheses, Sampling and generalization |
| Week 9 | Reliability in psychological research |
| Week 10 | Validity in psychological research |
| Week 11 | The Research Project |
| Week 12 | Revision and Wrap up |

READING LIST

- Smith, A., & Davis, F., (2013). *The Psychologist as Detective: An Introduction to Conducting Research in Psychology*. 6th Edition. Pearson
- Morgan, C.T., King, R.A., Weisz, J.R. & Schopler, J. (1986). *Introduction to Psychology* (7th edition). New Delhi: Tata Mcgraw-Hill Publishing Company Limited.

TUTORIAL QUESTIONS

- How would you define research and what is the purpose or basic aim of research (b) Distinguish between qualitative and quantitative research citing one example each of studies in which they can be utilized

2. Write short notes on any five of the following research methods: Archival Research, Diary studies, Observation, Case Studies, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), In-depth Interviews (IDIs), Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)
3. Identify and explain the main steps of a research project
4. Give an example of any five hypotheses that can be tested in psychology identifying the independent and dependent variables
5. Give an extensive discussion of any five problems that can occur in research with people
6. (a) What is reliability (b) Discuss the following tests of reliability: Test – Retest, Inter-Rater Reliability, Parallel Forms Reliability; Internal Consistency Reliability (c) What are the factors that can influence reliability?
7. Discuss any three quantitative methods of research and any two qualitative methods of research
8. (a) What is validity; Discuss the following tests of validity: Content Validity, Criterion Related Validity, Construct Validity; Face Validity
9. What is a psychological test and what do they measure? Discuss stating examples (b) how do psychological tests measure? (c) Give an example of the following types of tests or scale items: Open/Open ended, Open/single response, multiple choice, Bi-polar rating, Likert type, Ordering, Projection, Performance items, (categorical survey type questions)
10. Explain the following biases in research: The Hawthorn Effect, Social Desirability, Placebo Effect Participant Expectancy, Pygmalion Effect, Halo and Contrast Effects
11. Write short notes on the following: Survey Research, Interviews, Correlation Studies; Longitudinal Studies, Cross-Sectional Studies
12. What is a psychological test or scale? Explain what a Likert type questionnaire is and the steps involved in construction of a Likert-type questionnaire