University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	Qualitative Research in Psychology, PG_00148272		
Field of study	Psychology		
Date of commencement of studies	October 2024	Academic year of realisation of subject	2027/2028
Education level	uniform Master's studies	Subject group	Obligatory subject group in the field of study
Mode of study	full-time studies	Mode of delivery	at the university
Year of study	4	Language of instruction	Polish
Semester of study	7	ECTS credits	2.0
Learning profile	academic	Assessment form	credit
Conducting unit	Division of Clinical and Health Psychology -> Institute of Psychology -> Faculty of Social Sciences -> Rector		
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor	dr Agata Rudnik	
	Teachers		

Lesson types							
	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	15.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15
	E-learning hours included: 0.0						

Learning activity and number of study hours					
	Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan	Participation in consultation hours	Self-study	SUM
	Number of study hours	15	10.0	30.0	55

Subject objectives	The aim of the course is to introduce various approaches, methods, and techniques used in qualitative research in psychology.

Learning outcomes	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	[PSYCHJ5_W06] He/she has in-depth knowledge of human development in the life cycle, in biological, psychological and social aspects.	The student knows qualitative research methodologies and their application to studying phenomena related to human development. They are also open to acquiring and updating knowledge about human development across the lifespan, actively seeking new tools and research methods.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
	[PSYCHJ5_K06] He/she is responsible for his/her own preparation for work, decisions taken, actions taken and their effects, he/she feels responsible towards people for whom good he/she tries to act, he/she expresses such an attitude in the environment of specialists and indirectly models this approach among others.	The student is able to conduct interviews, and observations, and analyze documents and visual materials in a psychological context, using advanced qualitative data collection techniques.	[SK4] test/exam - oral or written
	[PSYCHJ5_W11] He/she has organized knowledge of ethical principles and norms and professional ethics; he/she knows the legal, organizational, and ethical conditions of the performed professional activity.	The student is able to identify and analyze ethical issues in qualitative research and apply appropriate ethical principles and standards in research practice.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
	[PSYCHJ5_U09] He/she is able to generate original solutions to complex psychological problems and forecast the course of their solution as well as predict the effects of planned activities in specific practical areas.	The student is able to integrate theoretical and practical knowledge to create comprehensive strategies for solving psychological problems and evaluate their effectiveness in the context of qualitative research.	[SU4] test/exam - oral or written
	[PSYCHJ5_K01] He/she has deeper awareness of the level of his/her knowledge and skills, he/she understands the need for continuous personal and professional development.	The student is open to acquiring and updating knowledge about the terminology used in psychology and related disciplines, which fosters continuous professional and academic development.	[SK4] test/exam - oral or written
	[PSYCHJ5_K02] He/she is ready to take on professional and personal challenges; he/she is active, takes the trouble and is persistent in undertaking individual and team professional activities in the field of psychology; he/she is committed to cooperation.	The student is able to actively engage in planning and conducting qualitative research, demonstrating initiative and independence in undertaking research activities. They also engage in collaboration with other researchers, creating an atmosphere of mutual support and constructive exchange of ideas, which fosters the achievement of common research goals.	[SK4] test/exam - oral or written
	[PSYCHJ5_U02] He/she is able to use and integrate theoretical knowledge in the field of psychology and related disciplines in order to analyse complex psychological, educational, aid or therapeutic problems, as well as diagnose and design practical activities.	The student is able to independently design and conduct qualitative research on complex psychological, educational, support, or therapeutic problems, formulating appropriate research questions and selecting suitable research methods. They can also analyze and interpret qualitative data, integrating theoretical knowledge from psychology and related disciplines to diagnose problems and design practical interventions.	[SU4] test/exam - oral or written
	[PSYCHJ5_W07] He/she has in-depth knowledge of the specificity of social relations, social phenomena and the regularities that govern them from the point of view of psychology.	The student is able to design qualitative research that allows for the exploration of social relationships and social phenomena by formulating appropriate research questions and selecting suitable research methods.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written

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[PSYCHJ5_K05] He/she is convinced of the necessity and importance of behaving in a professional manner and adheres to the principles of professional ethics; he/she sees and formulates moral problems and ethical dilemmas related to his/her own and someone else's work; he/she seeks optimal solutions and the possibility of correcting incorrect psychological actions.	The student knows and understands the basic principles of professional ethics in psychology and their significance in the context of conducting qualitative research. They possess knowledge of typical moral problems and ethical dilemmas that may arise during research, as well as the standards and guidelines for ethical conduct, including procedures for obtaining informed consent and protecting participants' data.	[SK4] test/exam - oral or written
[PSYCHJ5_W10] Has an in-depth and expanded knowledge of the biological, pedagogical, social and philosophical bases of human mental functioning; understands the nature of functionality and dysfunctionality, harmony and disharmony, norm and pathology.	The student possesses in-depth knowledge about the impact of social factors on human psychological functioning, including the role of culture, social groups, and interpersonal interactions. They are also familiar with the philosophical foundations of psychological functioning, including concepts related to human nature, freedom, ethics, and values. Additionally, they understand the essence of functionality and dysfunctionality, harmony and disharmony, norms and pathology in the psychological context, and are able to relate these concepts to the results of qualitative research.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
[PSYCHJ5_K07] He/she is sensitive to social and psychological problems, he/she is ready to communicate and cooperate with the environment, including people who are not specialists in a given field, and to actively participate in groups and organizations implementing psychological activities.	The student is able to communicate with representatives of other disciplines using appropriate psychological terminology, facilitating interdisciplinary collaboration and knowledge exchange. They can also create coherent and logical descriptions and analyses of psychological phenomena, using psychological terminology in a manner appropriate to the research context.	[SK4] test/exam - oral or written
[PSYCHJ5_U07] He/she has in-depth skills of observing, diagnosing, rationally assessing complex psychological situations and analysing motives and patterns of human behaviour.	The student is able to diagnose complex psychological situations based on collected qualitative data, identifying key factors and relationships.	[SU4] test/exam - oral or written
[PSYCHJ5_W08] He/she has in-depth and expanded knowledge of the psychological foundations of human functioning.	The student is able to analyze qualitative data, identifying key categories and themes related to psychological aspects of human functioning, using techniques such as thematic analysis, content analysis, and discourse analysis.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
[PSYCHJ5_K03] He/she appreciates the importance of psychological sciences for the development of an individual and proper social ties, he/she has a positive attitude to acquiring knowledge in the field of the studied scientific discipline and building a psychologist's workshop.	The student is able to correctly use psychological terminology in their research papers, reports, and presentations, precisely describing psychological phenomena.	[SK4] test/exam - oral or written
[PSYCHJ5_W05] Has a structured and in-depth knowledge of the specialization of psychology, including terminology, theory, and methodology.	The student is able to use advanced terminology in the field of psychology in the context of qualitative research, precisely describing and analyzing psychological phenomena. They also have knowledge of the latest achievements and trends in qualitative research in psychology, including new methods and research tools.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written

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[PSYCHJ5_U05] He/she has in-depth skills to present his/her own ideas, doubts, and suggestions, to support them with extensive argumentation in the context of selected theoretical perspectives, views of various authors, while being guided by ethical principles.	The student is capable of reflecting on their own research experience and continuously improving their research and theoretical skills in the field of psychology.	[SU4] test/exam - oral or written
[PSYCHJ5_U08] He/she is able to efficiently use selected theoretical approaches to analyse the undertaken practical activities.	The student knows key theories and models explaining psychological phenomena and is able to relate them to the results of qualitative research.	[SU4] test/exam - oral or written
[PSYCHJ5_K04] He/she identifies himself/herself with the values, goals and tasks implemented in psychological practice, he/she is characterized by caution, maturity and commitment to designing, planning and implementing psychological activities.	The student is able to critically analyze scientific literature, recognizing and interpreting specialized psychological terms and their application in various research contexts.	[SK4] test/exam - oral or written
[PSYCHJ5_W09] He/she has structured knowledge of the theory of upbringing, learning and teaching, other educational processes and various educational environments, their specificity and processes taking place in them.	The student is able to present their research findings clearly and understandably, both in written and oral form, taking into account different audiences and their needs.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
[PSYCHJ5_W02] He/she has an in-depth and expanded knowledge of the sources and the place of psychology in the system of sciences and its subject and methodological connections with other disciplines.	The student is able to independently design and conduct qualitative research, considering an interdisciplinary approach and utilizing methodologies used in other sciences.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
[PSYCHJ5_W01] He/she knows the terminology used in psychology and its application in related disciplines at the advanced level.	The student understands how psychological terminology is used in qualitative research and is able to apply appropriate concepts to describe and analyze psychological phenomena.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written

Subject contents

1. Introduction to qualitative research
- definition and purpose of qualitative research,
- history and development of qualitative research,
- comparison of qualitative and quantitative research,
- status of qualitative research in psychology.
2. Basic approaches and methods in qualitative research
- phenomenology (including Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis),
- ethnography,
- grounded theory,
- narrative analysis.
3. Planning and designing qualitative research
- formulating a research problem,
- choosing a methodology,
- stages of the research process.
4. Ethics in qualitative research
5. Data collection techniques
- interviews in qualitative research (including: types of interviews - structured, semi-structured; interview techniques and content analysis of interviews),
- observation in qualitative research (including: types of observation - participant, non-participant; observation techniques),
- analysis of documents and visual materials (texts, photos, films).
6. Qualitative data analysis
- introduction to qualitative data analysis,
- data coding process,
- categories and themes in qualitative data,
- techniques of qualitative data analysis,
- content analysis, thematic analysis, discourse analysis.
7. Software for qualitative data analysis
-introduction to NVivo / MaxQDA.
8. Presentation and interpretation of qualitative research results |
9. Application of qualitative research in various fields of psychology
10. The future of qualitative research
- new trends and directions in research,
- integration of qualitative and quantitative research.

Prerequisites and co-requisites

Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
	Written exam	51.0%	100.0%
Recommended reading	Basic literature	Creswell, J.W. (2013). *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches*. Jagiellonian University Press. Maison, D. (2022). *Qualitative Methods in Social Research An Applied Approach*. PWN.	
	Supplementary literature	Silverman, D. (2022). *Qualitative Research.* Sage. Smith, J. A. (2015). *Qualitative Psychology: A Practical Guide to Research Methods. 3rd Edition.* Sage. Smith, J. A. (2024). *Qualitative Psychology: A Practical Guide to Research Methods. 4th Edition.* Sage.	
	eResources addresses		
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	Propose a selected qualitative research methodology depending on the research problem and the study group. Justify your choice.		
Work placement	Not applicable		

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