Course title:

Qualitative and quantitative Research methods in nursing

* Semester: 1st. Mondays: 8-10 am.

* Point: 2 Credit

* Pre-requisite Courses: Participation in a research methodology workshop

* Subjects:

Quantitative and qualitative research methods: principles, issues and their critiques.

Lecturers:

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will provide an overview of research methods and issues within the caring sciences. After a brief introduction the course will focus on the research process. The various stages of research from problem formulation to data analysis will be examined in turn. At the same time, the course will help the students to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to implement various aspects of the research process through the completion of various fields and class assignments. Thus, the course will encourage critical thinking and writing skills that demonstrate the students’ abilities to understand and evaluate caring related researches.

PURPOSE:

The course will introduce students to use qualitative and quantitative research methods in order to analyze caring phenomena and provide opportunities for students to gain some experiences in conducting research at the various stages of the research process. Furthermore the course will assist students to develop their capabilities in understanding, doing and evaluating highly qualified nursing research.

OBJECTIVES:

The course is designed to give students an opportunity to:

1) Enhance awareness and understanding of the nature and development of nursing research.

2) become familiar with principles and different methods of qualitative research in nursing and allied health.

3) become familiar with principles of doing and analysing quantitative research methods in the field of caring sciences and nursing.

4) Develop and enhance their skills in applying critical judgement to concepts and issues relevant to the development of nursing research.
Course Structure:
Classes include teaching with debates, student presentations and exercises, and group/individual work assignments.

Detailed Lesson Plans and Resources

Profile
The aim of this course is to make the students acquainted with:
- Key questions and basic concepts of quantitative and qualitative research methods
- How to use and critically appraise existing research in the fields of caring, health, and nursing both in education and practice.
- How to plan, design, carry out and evaluate empirical and qualitative researches.

The course falls in three parts:
- Classes in quantitative research methods
- Classes in qualitative research methods
- Classes for integrating qualitative and quantitative research methods (Triangulation)

Lesson topics

Week 1:
- Introductions: Instructors & participants;
- Students organize to plan this course;
  - Take a moment to reflect on a possible area of interest.
  - What are some interesting situations for you to look at?
  - What is it that you want to know about?
  - What are the real needs of students (content, process) and how are these best met?
  - What are modes of interactions that best address the needs of students and instructor in this class?

Week 2:
Minilectures:
- Whole-class session: Quantitative v.s qualitative research,
  1. What is qualitative research?
  2. What is quantitative research?
  3. Does counting make a study quantitative?
  4. How is qualitative research distinct/different from quantitative research?
  5. Which is more difficult, qualitative or quantitative research? Why?
Week 3:
Minilectures:
✓ The importance, philosophy and issues in quantitative researches.
   Student questions arising from the previous studies.

Week 4:
Minilectures:
Introducing different methods of quantitative researches.
Student seminars #1
(Cross-sectional, Case-Control)

Week 5:
Minilectures:
Introducing different methods of quantitative methods
Student seminars #2
(Quasi-Experiment, Cohort studies)

Week 6:
Minilecture
Design of Research.
Student seminars #3
(RCT, Field trials)

Week 7:
Student seminars #4
(Sampling in quantitative methods)

Week 8:
Student seminars #5
(Data Interpretation in and report of quantitative researchs)

Week 9:
Minilectures:
Student seminars #6
(Meta Analysis)

Week 10:
✓ The importance, philosophy and issues in qualitative researchs
✓ Introducing different methods of qualitative researchs

Week 11:
Minilectures:
Phenomenology, hermeneutic.

Week 12:
Minilecture:
Grounded Theory.
Week 13:
Minilecture:
Ethnography, Cross-cultural nursing, Historical reserach.

Week 14:
Minilecture:
Action research

Week 15:
Minilecture:
Sampling, data gathering and interpretation in qualitative research.

Week 16:
Minilecture:
Mixed methods: qualitative and quantitative (triangulation)

Week 17:
✓ Validation in qualitative research
✓ Research Ethics

Key elements to be considered in the application

✓ Students-teacher discussion

A detailed time table is enclosed in Farsi language

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING (Student Assessment):

The following components comprise the course grade along with the weight specified:
- Seminar/Group discussion, Participation (2 for every student) 40%
- Assignment # 1 30%
- Assignment # 2 30%

Description of the compulsory written reports:
At the beginning of the course the lecturers will go through the guidelines for the compulsory reports in quantitative and qualitative research methods respectively. The lecturers will tutor the students during the process.
The courses are concluded by an evaluation of the reports and written assignments.
The written reports will be marked passed / not passed firstly and then scored according to their soundness and rigour. The not passed reports must be reworked and handed in again.
The allocation of a grade for assessment will give consideration to the following presentation/report criteria:

- Professional & logical rationality
- Clear explanations
- Demonstrates full understanding

More criterias include:

* Content:
  - demonstrates understanding of the topic
  - demonstrates original and creative thought

* Evidence of research and reading
  - research/reading cited
  - demonstrates good comprehension of cited material
  - citations appropriate and adequate in text and reference list

- Evidence of analysis and synthesis
  - demonstrates ability to think critically about information
  - demonstrates ability to relate topic to current nursing issues

**Assignment # 1:**
Each student should change his/her oral presentations in a comprehensive written report with a complete soundness scientific manner (Topic, introduction, body, conclusion, references, appendixes, and...)

**Assignment # 2:**
Each student should prepare a qualitative research proposal.

**Seminar topics:**
1. Quantitative Research data Analysis and Interpratation(P value)
2. Sampling methods in quantitative research.
3. RCT Research and field trials
4. Meta- analysis & Systematic review
5. Design for quantitative researches (case-control, cross sectional, longitudinal).
7. Qualitative data analysis (types, methods, merits ...)
8. Schools of qualitative research methods.
Some useful references:


* Criteria for Evaluating Papers Using Qualitative Research Methods* (published by the Journal of Occupational and Organizational Psychology):
* An Introduction to Qualitative Research:
* QualPage, resources for qualitative research:
  http://www.ualberta.ca/~jmorris/qual.html
* Qualitative Research Web Sites: http://www.nova.edu/ssss/QR/web.html
* qualitative-research.net, Online Gateway for Qualitative Research:
  http://www.qualitative-research.net/
* Research Methods Resources on the WWW:
  http://www.slais.ubc.ca/resources/research_methods/index.htm
* Action Research, ISSN 1445-6125, Southern Cross University
* International refereed online journal of action research
* International Journal of Qualitative Studies in Education, ISSN 0951-8398,
  Taylor and Francis http://www.tandf.co.uk/
* Qualitative Inquiry, ISSN 1077-8004, Sage Publications; http://www.sagepub.co.uk/
* Qualitative Research, ISSN 1468-7941, Sage Publications;
  http://www.sagepub.co.uk/
* The Qualitative Report, ISSN 1052-0147, Nova University;
  http://www.nova.edu/ssss/QR/