

MASTERS IN RESEARCH – MRES SOCIAL SCIENCES:

- Qualitative Research 1 (QR1)
- Qualitative Research 2 (QR2)
- Survey Methods 1 (SM1)
- Survey Methods 2 (SM2)
- Discourse and Linguistic Theory and Analysis *ELECTIVE*
- Survey Methods 3 (SM3) *ELECTIVE*

- Principles of Methodology: Positivist Tradition
- Principles of Methodology: Social Constructionism
- Philosophies of Research: Classical Social Theory
- Philosophies of Research: Contemporary Social Theory

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Modules in research methodologies and methods - Qualitative

Contact Name:	Julia Hirst (block) Jon Dean (evening)	Ext. 2469 Ext. 6533	j.hirst@shu.ac.uk j.dean@shu.ac.uk
Module title:	Qualitative Research 1		
Module dates:	See diagram		
Content	Qualitative research involves the development of methodological skills within theorised reflective and reflexive approaches to the social world. The QR1 module commences development of such engagement with theory and method, developing students' methodological accomplishment and also an initial ability to reflect upon the analysis of qualitative data and relate all stages of research to the philosophies underlying different types of qualitative research. Indicative content includes theoretical and epistemological bases for qualitative research and use of ethnographic interviews; realist and constructionist approaches to qualitative research; different types of interview and interview records; conducting and recording in-depth interviews; data organisation; theorised analytic procedures; ethical considerations and reflexive practice. All students are expected to take this module.		
Credit	15 (one piece of assessed coursework)		

Contact Name:	Ruth Barley Ning Tang	Ext. 5585 Ext. 4413	r.barley@shu.ac.uk n.tang@shu.ac.uk
Module title:	Qualitative Research 2		
Module dates:	See diagram		
Content	<p>QR2 develops students' methodological skills through a broader context, including developments in participant-observation, case study techniques, life histories and work histories, drawing where required on other forms of qualitative research (such as documentary and media research and textual analysis or performance analysis). The theoretical framework includes naturalistic methodology, analytic induction, theories of representation and social construction. Students apply methodological skills and to engage with different modes of data collection and analysis to demonstrate the broad coverage of qualitative research methodology expected of a researcher. Students are required to develop their understanding of qualitative research in specific areas of interest, e.g. criminology, education, health, cultural studies, town planning, sociology or policy studies. By the end of the module students are expected to show a sound understanding of substantive issues within their selected field, relevant methodologies and epistemologies, and to be able to apply a range of research methods to their particular inquiry, through design and completion of a project from initial design phase to production of a report, and to demonstrate critical and reflexive engagement with debates on the ethics and practice of qualitative research.</p>		
Credit	15 (one piece of assessed coursework)		

Contact Name:	Anjana Rahavan	Ext.	a.raghavan@shu.ac.uk
Module title:	Discourse and Linguistic Theory and Analysis ELECTIVE		
Module dates:	See diagram		
Content	<p>This module assists students to critically appraise and employ methods of discourse or linguistic analysis using texts, interview material and other resources. It explores derivations and theoretical dimensions of linguistic theory and analysis within the disciplines of sociology and psychology, focusing on language in cultural context -structure and functions of language, language use, theories of language and culture - and strategies of discourse analysis and associated linguistic analysis (e.g. critical discourse analysis, semiotics, conversation analysis, narrative analysis, rhetorical analysis). In particular, it encourages students to critically examine construction of social inequalities through intertextuality. Students develop and conduct a short project examining discourse/text of their choice and producing a report on the contested meanings revealed by their analysis.</p>		
Credit	15 (one piece of assessed coursework)		

Modules in research methodologies and methods - Quantitative

Contact Name:	Bob Jeffery Peter Thomas	Ext. 2270 Ext. 6531	r.f.jeffery@shu.ac.uk p.thomas@shu.ac.uk
Module titles:	Survey Methods 1 and 2		
Module dates:	See diagram		
Content	<p>The aim of the Survey Research 1 module is to enable students to recognise and explain good practice in the design of surveys and the preparation of survey data for statistical analysis, developing a critical awareness of epistemological and methodological underpinnings of 'the survey method' and the relationships between theory and data in deductive research. Students initiate a research project through either the use of a large existing dataset or developing their own primary data collection. Their report on this project includes a methodological critique, and initial exploration of the dataset including planning and piloting of analysis. All students are expected to take this module</p> <p>Survey Method 2 builds on the initial work done in SM1. It enables students to apply appropriate descriptive and inferential statistical techniques to survey data using statistical software in order to explore a research problem. Specifically, this module gives a strong grounding in widely-used techniques including bivariate statistical hypotheses tests, multivariate hypothesis elaboration, statistical control. The learning will consist of a balance between acquiring the academic understanding of statistical techniques and applying such knowledge in practice, through the use of a statistical software package, enabling students to carefully interpret the results of statistical analyses, and to relate their findings to relevant theory/literature in their academic disciplines. Students produce a report on their research, in which statistical analyses are summarised and synthesised within the relevant theoretical, methodological and empirical literatures.</p>		
Credit	15 credits per module (one piece of assessed coursework per module)		

Contact Name:	Sean Demack	Ext. 4113	s.demack@shu.ac.uk
Module title:	Survey Methods 3: modelling survey data ELECTIVE		
Module dates:	See diagram		
Content	<p>This module enables students to apply multivariate statistical modelling techniques to survey data using statistical software in order to explore a research problem. Students may select a suitable large dataset (either previously used in SM1 or 2, or a new set) or use their own data, possibly collected for PhD work. They develop advanced skills through the application of modelling techniques to this dataset. The assessment is to write a report in the style of a journal article which presents the research problem, statistical analysis and discussion of findings with reference to suitable theoretical, methodological and empirical literatures. Students will previously have taken SM1 and usually SM2: This module therefore is an option for students specialising in quantitative research.</p>		
Credit	15 credits (one piece of assessed coursework)		

Modules in the philosophical underpinning of research designs and theoretical frameworks:

Contact Name:	Ning Tang	Ext. 4413	n.tang@shu.ac.uk
Module titles:	Principles of Methodology: Positivist Tradition Principles of Methodology: Social Constructionism		
Module dates:	See diagram		
Content	<p>The purpose of these modules is to familiarise students with the philosophical background to the different research traditions and enquiry techniques that social scientists draw upon in empirical fields of research.</p> <p>Positivism or 'naive' Empiricism, Hermeneutics, Critical Theory, Postmodernism, Scientific Realism and Feminism are the six research traditions featured on the course. The modules consider the basic assumptions that these well known traditions make about 'human nature', the nature of 'society', the nature of 'knowledge', and about the nature of social explanation. The competing moral and political values associated with these approaches will be debated, and implications for the design, ethics and conduct of specific projects research in students' fields of interest explored.</p> <p>The treatment of each of the six research traditions will focus on two fundamental concerns; to examine philosophical assumptions and to consider the implications that these different 'philosophies of science' have for our understanding and assessment of the research methods and techniques that have been adopted in the social sciences. Students are required to develop a comparative understanding of research traditions in terms of their relevance for our understanding of substantive issues as well as their implications for research methodology.</p>		
Credit	15 per module (one piece of assessed coursework per module)		

Contact Name:	Ning Tang	Ext. 4413	n.tang@shu.ac.uk
Module titles:	Philosophies of Research: Classical Social Theory Philosophies of Research: Contemporary Social Theory		
Module dates:	See diagram		
Content	<p>Students are offered the opportunity to develop an understanding of diverse theoretical approaches to research and the creation of knowledge, embedding their own work within historical and emergent paradigms.</p> <p>The content is split between the modules. Together they cover classical and contemporary theorists and their inter-relation - including structural theorists, postcolonial thinking, critical race theory, feminist theorising, social philosophies, science and scientism, globalization theorising, modernity/postmodernity debates, reflections on modernity.</p> <p>Assessment requires extended discussion and critique of chosen research paradigms, with particular reference to current research generated from these.</p>		
Credit	15 per module (one piece of assessed coursework per module)		