

## PUBH6210: Qualitative Methods in Health Research

Online

Trimester 1 - 2024



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
NEWCASTLE  
AUSTRALIA

## OVERVIEW

<b>Course Description</b>	Introduces students to qualitative research and methods for qualitative data collection, analysis and interpretation, with a focus on health research. The course develops students' skills in qualitative research design, appraising qualitative research and conducting interpretive analysis.
<b>Academic Progress Requirements</b>	Nil
<b>Contact Hours</b>	<b>Online</b> <b>Online Activity</b> Online 2 hour(s) per week(s) for 13 week(s) starting Week 1  <b>Self-Directed Learning</b> Self-Directed 8 hour(s) per week(s) for 13 week(s) starting Week 1
<b>Unit Weighting</b>	10
<b>Workload</b>	Students are required to spend on average 120-140 hours of effort (contact and non-contact) including assessments per 10 unit course.

# COURSE OUTLINE

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# CONTACTS

<b>Course Coordinator</b>	<b>Online</b> Dr Meredith Tavener <a href="mailto:Meredith.Tavener@newcastle.edu.au">Meredith.Tavener@newcastle.edu.au</a>
<b>Teaching Staff</b>	Other teaching staff will be advised on the course Canvas site.
<b>School Office</b>	<b>School of Medicine and Public Health</b> Education Office <a href="mailto:SMPH-edoffice@newcastle.edu.au">SMPH-edoffice@newcastle.edu.au</a> +61 2 4042 0550

# SYLLABUS

**Course Content** The subject is written as distance learning modules with regular micro-lectures and on-line discussion opportunities. The course content ranges from introducing the philosophical underpinnings of qualitative research, to comparing some commonly applied methodological approaches, to options for analysing and presenting qualitative data.

Along the way, the course covers issues such as:

- The strengths and limitations of various means of data collection;
- The ethical implications of qualitative research;
- The trustworthiness of qualitative research findings;
- Appraising qualitative research; and
- Writing up qualitative work.

**Course Learning Outcomes**

**On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:**

1. Identify key features of qualitative research (M1)
2. Describe the philosophical and theoretical foundations of some of the major approaches to qualitative research (M1, M2)
3. Distinguish appropriate contexts and questions for qualitative research in health (M2)
4. Demonstrate critical reflection using examples of qualitative / health research (M2, M3)
5. Differentiate issues of rigour in qualitative research (M3)
6. Analyse appropriate methods for qualitative data collection and analysis (M4)
7. Judge how to construct and write up qualitative research (M5)
8. Critique reports of qualitative research (M1 - M6)

**Course Materials**

**Other Resources:**  
See Canvas for course materials.

# ASSESSMENTS

This course has 5 assessments. Each assessment is described in more detail in the sections below.

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Assessment 1 General Quiz	See Canvas for due dates	Individual	20%	1, 2, 3
2	Assessment 2 Critical Reflection	See Canvas for due dates	Individual	20%	1, 2, 3, 4
3	Assessment 3 Issues of Rigor	See Canvas for due dates	Individual	20%	1, 2, 3, 4
4	Assessment 4 Methods of Qualitative Data Collection and Analysis	See Canvas for due dates	Individual	20%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
5	Assessment 5 Reporting Qualitative Research	See Canvas for due dates	Individual	20%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

**Late Submissions** The mark for an assessment item submitted after the designated time on the due date, without an approved extension of time, will be reduced by 10% of the possible maximum mark for that assessment item for each day or part day that the assessment item is late. Note: this applies equally to week and weekend days.

## Assessment 1 - Assessment 1 General Quiz

**Assessment Type** Quiz  
**Description** See Canvas for assessment details  
**Weighting** 20%  
**Due Date** See Canvas for due dates

## Assessment 2 - Assessment 2 Critical Reflection

**Assessment Type** Written Assignment  
**Description** See Canvas for assessment details  
**Weighting** 20%  
**Due Date** See Canvas for due dates

## Assessment 3 - Assessment 3 Issues of Rigor

**Assessment Type** Written Assignment  
**Description** See Canvas for assessment details  
**Weighting** 20%  
**Due Date** See Canvas for due dates

## Assessment 4 - Assessment 4 Qualitative Interview Review

**Assessment Type** Written Assignment  
**Description** See Canvas for assessment details  
**Weighting** 20%  
**Due Date** See Canvas for due dates

## Assessment 5 - Assessment 5 Reporting Qualitative Research

**Assessment Type** Written Assignment  
**Description** See Canvas for assessment details  
**Weighting** 20%  
**Due Date** See Canvas for due dates

# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

## Grading Scheme

This course is graded as follows:

Range of Marks	Grade	Description
85-100	High Distinction (HD)	Outstanding standard indicating comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an outstanding level of academic achievement; mastery of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
75-84	Distinction (D)	Excellent standard indicating a very high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a very high level of academic ability; sound development of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
65-74	Credit (C)	Good standard indicating a high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a high level of academic achievement; reasonable development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
50-64	Pass (P)	Satisfactory standard indicating an adequate knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an adequate level of academic achievement; satisfactory development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
0-49	Fail (FF)	Failure to satisfactorily achieve learning outcomes. If all compulsory course components are not completed the mark will be zero. A fail grade may also be awarded following disciplinary action.

\*Skills are those identified for the purposes of assessment task(s).

## Communication Methods

Communication methods used in this course include:

- Canvas Course Site: Students will receive communications via the posting of content or announcements on the Canvas course site.
- Email: Students will receive communications via their student email account.

## Course Evaluation

Each year feedback is sought from students and other stakeholders about the courses offered in the University for the purposes of identifying areas of excellence and potential improvement.

## Oral Interviews (Vivas)

As part of the evaluation process of any assessment item in this course an oral examination (viva) may be conducted. The purpose of the oral examination is to verify the authorship of the material submitted in response to the assessment task. The oral examination will be conducted in accordance with the principles set out in the [Oral Examination \(viva\) Procedure](#). In cases where the oral examination reveals the assessment item may not be the student's own work the case will be dealt with under the [Student Conduct Rule](#).

## Academic Misconduct

All students are required to meet the academic integrity standards of the University. These standards reinforce the importance of integrity and honesty in an academic environment. Academic Integrity policies apply to all students of the University in all modes of study and in all locations. For the Student Academic Integrity Policy, refer to <https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35>.

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**Adverse  
Circumstances**

The University acknowledges the right of students to seek consideration for the impact of allowable adverse circumstances that may affect their performance in assessment item(s).

Applications for special consideration due to adverse circumstances will be made using the online Adverse Circumstances system where:

1. the assessment item is a major assessment item; or
2. the assessment item is a minor assessment item and the Course Co-ordinator has specified in the Course Outline that students may apply the online Adverse Circumstances system;
3. you are requesting a change of placement; or
4. the course has a compulsory attendance requirement.

Before applying you must refer to the Adverse Circumstance Affecting Assessment Items Procedure available at:

<https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=236>

**Important Policy  
Information**

The Help button in the Canvas Navigation menu contains helpful information for using the Learning Management System. Students should familiarise themselves with the policies and procedures at <https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/respect-at-uni/policies-and-procedures> that support a safe and respectful environment at the University.

*This course outline was approved by the Head of School. No alteration of this course outline is permitted without Head of School approval. If a change is approved, students will be notified and an amended course outline will be provided in the same manner as the original.*

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