



**LUND UNIVERSITY**

Faculty of Medicine

Committee for Biomedical, Medical and Public  
Health Education (NBFMU)

SYLLABUS

Diary No.  
M 2008/534

Approved by NBMFU on 10 March 2008.  
Valid from the spring term, 2008  
Revised 28 March 2011 in accordance with  
Decision by the Programme Director M2011/588

## Course Code VLÄN05

### Qualitative Research Methods

#### 7.5 Higher Education Credits Level A

#### General Information

*Field*

Public Health

*Subject*

Qualitative methods

*Type of Course and Place in the Educational System*

Compulsory course in the Master of Public Health programme

*Language of Instruction*

English

#### Learning Outcomes

*Knowledge and Understanding*

On completion of the course, the student shall be able to:

- Explain the theoretical basis of qualitative methodology and account for the characteristic features of a qualitative research process.
- Account for key concepts and procedures in different qualitative research methods.
- Describe different methods for the collection of qualitative data and demonstrate an understanding of what methods are suited for different research questions.
- Account for the basic principles and procedures of qualitative analysis.
- Describe what criteria are relevant to the assessment of qualitative research findings.

*Skills and Abilities*

On completion of the course, the student shall be able to:

- Independently identify dividing lines between qualitative and quantitative approaches to research.
- Independently identify suitable methods for data collection and give reasons for her/his choice of method.
- Design an interview guide and carry out a qualitative interview and a focus group discussion.

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- Carry out a basic collation of data and present qualitative research findings.
- Critically examine the credibility and applicability of the findings and conclusions drawn from qualitative research.
- Discuss quantitative and qualitative approaches from a position of heightened methodological awareness.
- Independently and reflectively identify public health issues which may be studied by means of qualitative research strategies.
- Critically assess the contents of qualitative scientific studies.

### *Judgment and Approach*

On completion of the course, the student shall be able to:

- Reflect on ethical issues connected with qualitative research.
- Reflect on the limitations of the qualitative method.

## Course Content

The course provides a survey of the diversity of traditions and concepts inherent in qualitative research. Special emphasis is placed on theoretical principles and strategies which are common to different varieties of qualitative research and which expose fundamental differences in relation to quantitative scientific outlook. The design of a qualitative study is also dealt with (problem formulation, selection principles etc.) Methods to generate qualitative data are presented. The steps and techniques of qualitative analysis are described with special emphasis on grounded theory and manifest content analysis. Different attitudes in qualitative research to scientific criteria concerning credibility and relevance in qualitative research are discussed. There will be some opportunity for supervised practice in carrying out interviews and focus group discussions and in the collation and coding of qualitative data.

## Teaching and Examination

1. Teaching consists of lectures, seminars and group work. Part of the teaching is conducted by means of the internet platform LUVIT. Attendance is compulsory at seminars, group work and LUVIT discussions.
2. Examination consists of a written group report from a field work assignment, an oral presentation of the group report, and an individual written examination.

## Marks

1. There is a two-point marking scale, Pass and Fail.
2. The mark for the whole course is based on satisfactory results on the group assignment and the individual report and attendance at compulsory teaching sessions.

## Admission Requirements

Bachelor's or equivalent degree. Specific requirement: English B or the equivalent. Foreign students will be exempted from the basic Swedish language admission requirement.

## Literature

is specified in separate list.