

**Alliance Manchester Business School**

**Doctoral Programme**  
**Course Unit Outline 2022/23**

<b>Academic Year</b>	1221
<b>Unit code:</b>	BMAN 80990
<b>Title:</b>	Research Theory and Methods (DBA/PhD)
<b>Credit rating:</b>	30
<b>Semester:</b>	1 & 2
<b>Course Coordinator</b> <b>Contact details:</b>	Professor Timothy Devinney Timothy.Devinney@manchester.ac.uk
<b>Pre-requisites:</b>	None
<b>Co-requisites:</b>	None
<b>Maximum number of students</b>	Not applicable

**Aims**

The aim of the unit is to introduce students to the philosophical foundations of scholarship and research and to integrate it with a mixture of research methods utilized in the social sciences. It is aimed at providing a basis on which students can (1) evaluate a literature so as to provide a basis for positioning their research, (2) develop an appropriate, logical and applicable theoretical structure, (3) understand the basis of alternative designs, methods and approaches to structuring and accomplishing a DBA research.

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**Objectives (Learning outcomes)**

<b>Category of outcome</b>	<i>Students should/will (please delete as appropriate) be able to:</i>
Knowledge and understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the philosophical foundations of social science disciplines;</li> <li>• Understand the basis of qualitative &amp; quantitative methods in the business research context;</li> <li>• Understand the basis of mixed methods in the business research context.</li> </ul>
Intellectual skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify the major issues that arise in the analysis of knowledge in social sciences;</li> <li>• Apply critical thinking methods to conduct analysis of theories, empirical findings and research issues;</li> <li>• Appreciate the role of the extant literature and analysis in building the thesis and research design foundations;</li> </ul>
Practical skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand alternative approaches to the research design of a doctoral thesis for the award of DBA;</li> <li>• Justify the choice of research methods for the DBA research project;</li> </ul>

**Methods of delivery**

<b>Lectures</b>	50 Hours 5 x 3-6 hours in Semester 1 5-6 x 3-6 hours in Semester 2
<b>Seminar/Tutorial/Workshop/Lab Hours</b>	As above
<b>Private Study</b>	250
<b>Directed Reading</b>	
<b>Total Study Hours</b>	300 hours

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### Attendance

Attendance is compulsory for DBA researchers.

### Syllabus and Teaching Schedule

DATE	TOPICS (See Readings Below)
Tues 04/10/2022 – 09:30-12:30	Introduction – Philosophy of Science, Pseudoscience
Tues 04/10/2022 – 13:30-16:30	Induction, Falsification, Paradigms
Thurs 06/10/2022 – 09:30-12:30	Knowledge, Bayesianism, Experimentation
Thurs 06/10/2022 – 13:30-16:30	Ontology
Fri 06/01/2023 – 10:00–13:00 <b>(Via Zoom)</b>	Progress Report – Epistemology & Ontology – Presentation (Formative Assignment) <b>Submit report to Blackboard</b>
Mon 16/01/2023 (no session)	Individual Assessed Essay – Epistemology & Ontology <b>Submit to Blackboard</b>
Mon 06/02/2023 – 09:00-12:00	Text & Data Extraction
Mon 06/02/2023 – 13:00 – 16:00	Structuring Theory
Wed 08/02/2023 – 10:00-13:00	Survey Design*
Wed 08/02/2023 – 14:00-16:00	Elite Interviewing*
Fri 10/02/2023 – 10:00 – 13:00	Mixed Methods
Fri 10/02/2023 – 14:00-17:00	Reliability & Validity
Fri 14/04/2023 – 10:00-13:00 <b>(Via Zoom)</b>	Progress Report – Theory & Methods – Presentation (Formative Assignment) <b>Submit to Blackboard</b>
Mon 8/05/2023 (no session)	Individual Assessed Essay – Theory & Methodology <b>Submit to Blackboard</b>

\* Possible External Speaker

### INTRODUCTION

#### Philosophy of (Social) Science

Kuhn: “The nature and necessity of scientific revolutions”\*; “Objectivity, value judgment, and theory choice” in C & C.\*

#### Science and Pseudoscience

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Popper: "Science: Conjectures and refutations" in C & C.\*

Lakatos: "Science and pseudoscience" in C & C.\*

Thagard: "Why astrology is a pseudoscience" in C & C.†

### **EPISTEMOLOGY**

#### **Induction**

Chalmers: "Science as knowledge derived from the facts of experience"\*; "Observation as practical intervention"\*; "Experiment"\*; "Deriving theories from facts: Induction".\*

#### **Falsification**

Chalmers: "Introducing falsificationism"\*; "Sophisticated falsificationism, novel predictions and the growth of science"\*; "The limits of falsificationism".\*

#### **Paradigms and Programs**

Chalmers: "Theories as structures I: Kuhn's paradigms"\*; "Theories as structures II: Research Programs".\*

#### **Anarchistic Theory of Knowledge<sup>†</sup>**

Chalmers: "Feyerabend's anarchistic theory of science"†; "Methodical changes in method".†

#### **Bayesianism & Probability**

Chalmers: "The Bayesian Approach".\*

W. Salmon: "Rationality and objectivity in Science or Tom Kuhn meets Tom Bayes" in C & C.†

#### **Experimentation**

Chalmers: "The new experimentalism".\*

Gillies: "The Duhem thesis and the Quine thesis" in C & C.†

### **ONTOLOGY**

#### **Causation, Explanation and the Laws of "Nature"**

Chalmers: "Why should the world obey laws?"\*

#### **Realism and Rationalism**

Chalmers: "Realism and anti realism".\*

Van Fraassen: "Arguments concerning scientific realism" in C & C.†

Musgrave: "Realism versus constructive empiricism" in C & C.†

#### **Functionalism and Individualism<sup>†</sup>**

Kincaid: "Functionalism defended"†; "The failures of individualism".†

#### **Hermeneutics and Critical Theory<sup>†</sup>**

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Kincaid: "A science of interpretation".<sup>†</sup>

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES

#### Social Science Methodologies

***Structuring Theory***, CBL Chapters 1 & 2.

***Methodological Validity & Reliability of Measurement***, CBL Chapters 3 & 4.

***Experimental Design***, CLB Chapter 5. Other chapters useful for those wanting to know more.

***Survey Design & Approaches***, CLB Chapters 11 & 15.

***Observation & Interviewing***, CLB Chapters 12 & 13

***Text & Data Extraction***, CBL Chapter 14.

#### Mixed Methods Research

Molina-Azorin JF, Bergh DD, Corley KG, & Ketchen DJ. (2017). "Mixed Methods in the Organizational Sciences: Taking Stock and Moving Forward," *Organizational Research Methods*. 20(2):179-192. doi:10.1177/1094428116687026. There are articles on a variety of mixed methods applications in that same issue.

Seawright, J. (2016). *Multi-Method Social Science: Combining Qualitative and Quantitative Tools*. Cambridge UK: Cambridge University Press.<sup>†</sup>

### Reading List

Chalmers, A.F. (1999) *What is this thing called Science? An assessment of the nature and status of science and its methods*. Third Edition. Brisbane: University of Queensland Press. (Designated Chalmers) – You should have your own copy of this.

Curd, M. and Cover, J.A. (1998). *Philosophy of Science: The Central Issues*. New York: W. W. Norton. (Designated C&C) – Readings are drawn from this. You do not need a copy as the readings will be available directly.

Kincaid, H. (1996) *Philosophical Foundations of the Social Sciences: Analyzing Controversies in Social Research*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (Designated Kincaid). Supplementary.

Crano, W.D., Brewer, M.B. & Lac. A (2014). *Principles and Methods of Social Research*. London: Taylor & Francis. Various Chapters assigned based on topics (Designated CBL)

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### Assessment

All assignment submissions should be through Blackboard/Turnitin and not by other means. Assignment submission dates will be set in due course.

Assessment Task	Length	How and When Feedback is Provided	Weighting Within Unit (If Relevant)	Submission Date
Formative assessment – Progress report on situating research within philosophical paradigm	1,000 words	Written	Feedback only	06.01.2023 <b>By 10:00 (UK Time)</b>
Formative in-class presentations (online)	15 minutes plus Q&A	Written (post presentation) & Verbal (during presentation)	Feedback only	06.01.2023 <b>By 10:00 (UK Time)</b>
Individual essay – Epistemology & Ontology (upload to Blackboard)	3,000 words upper limit	Written	50%	16.01.2023 <b>By 17:00 (UK Time)</b>
Formative assessment – Progress report on situating research within a methodological domain	1,000 words	Written (post presentation) & Verbal (during presentation)	Feedback only	14.04.2023 <b>By 10:00 (UK Time)</b>
Formative in-class presentations (online)	15 minutes plus Q&A	Written (post presentation) & Verbal (during presentation)	Feedback only	14.04.2023 <b>By 10:00 (UK Time)</b>
Individual essay – Methodology (upload to Blackboard)	3,000 words upper limit	Written	50%	08.05.2023 <b>By 17:00 (UK Time)</b>

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### Feedback

Assignment feedback will be provided through Turnitin 15 days after the submission date.

#### **Methods of Feedback from PGRs/Course Unit Survey**

PGRs can give feedback on the course unit via the course unit survey on Blackboard which will be made available at the end of the course.