

# WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY IN AFRICA



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*Addressing gender disparity and fostering equity in University Education*

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**FACULTY OF SOCIAL AND GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE SCIENCES**

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**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CHILD SENSITIVE SOCIAL POLICIES**

**MAIN PAPER**

**MCSSP 114:           ADVANCED RESEARCH METHODS**

**INTAKE 7:           FIRST YEAR FIRST SEMESTER**

**DATE:               2021               TIME:    2 HOURS**

## **INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

1. Answer any **two** questions.
2. All questions carry equal marks.

**Question 1**

Discuss the main differences between quantitative and qualitative research in terms of; the relationship between theory and data, epistemological considerations and ontological considerations.

**Question 2**

The Department of Social Development has awarded you a US\$10 000 research grant to conduct research into the characteristics of young people who commit crime. You are informed that your study results will be used by the police, social, and probation services in ‘tackling’ crime committed by young people.

Discuss the ethical dilemmas that you are likely to face in conducting this research.

**Question 3**

Anecdotal reports show that a significant proportion of school going children in low-income urban residential areas dropped out when schools resumed after the Covid-19 lockdown.

- (i) Describe the most appropriate research design that you would use to determine the prevalence of school dropouts. [50]
- (ii) Explain the appropriate sampling procedure that you would adopt. [25]
- (iii) Discuss some of the challenges that may threaten the validity and reliability of your study suggesting solutions to these threats. [25]

**Question 4**

Using illustrative case material, discuss the following issues associated with conducting ethnographic research:

- (i) Justify the circumstances under which covert ethnography may be adopted. [50]
- (ii) Analyse the role of key informants in ethnographic research highlighting any concerns that may arise when using them? [50]

**Question 5**

- (i) Discuss any five elements of a good questionnaire. [50]
- (ii) Assess the merits and demerits of the mixed methods approach. [50]

**END**