

**CENTRE FOR CANADIAN US & LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES
SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES**

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| Course (MA/PhD) | : | PhD |
| Course No. | : | AW655 |
| Course Title | : | Research Methodology |
| Course Type (Core/Optional) | : | Core |
| Course Teacher | : | Dr. Anshu Joshi |
| Credits Allotted | : | Four (4) |
| Semester | : | Winter |
| Contact Hours | : | 4 per week |

Course Objectives

The aim of this course is to help students to address research problems effectively, accurately and holistically. It is aimed to provide students with methodological knowledge and research design skills that can help them in understanding, analyzing, writing and presenting research in an efficient manner. The following are the key objectives:

- To introduce students to the research methods used while doing research in their respective area studies/world politics
- To introduce students to the relevant key concepts required for their PhD research including literature review, collecting data, fact-finding, effective analysis, and research writing
- To familiarize students with various theories of international relations that need to be applied during research for building appropriate conceptual framework
- To evaluate the application of different research methodologies to the analysis of discourses of world politics

Learning Outcomes

- Evaluate their own position on these key debates, with regards to their PhD research in terms of the information already available (literature review), and the research gap (scope of research).
- Understand the basics of the critical analysis in their respective research.
- Know the theories of international relations and their significance while analyzing a research problem.
- Grasp the key methods of research and use the appropriate ones for research.
- Learn the ways to effectively write and present facts/data/analysis.

Evaluation Methods

Class Participation (10%); Sessional Work (Term Paper and Presentation (40%) End-term Examination (50%)

Course Content

1. Introduction to Research

- Understanding research
- Scope, types and limitations of research in Social Sciences and International Relations
- Research Approaches

2. Research Design

- Identifying objectives of research, formulating research questions and hypotheses
- Descriptive and exploratory
- Experimental and evaluative

3. Research Methods and Techniques

- Qualitative Methods
- Quantitative methods
- Mixed methods and triangulation
- Case-study research
- Literature Review and Bibliographical Essay
- Primary and secondary data and sources
- Data collection: Questionnaires, interviews, direct observation

4. Theories of International Relations, Area Studies and Foreign Policy

- Realism
- Liberalism
- English School
- Constructivism
- Marxism
- Critical Theory
- Feminism
- Post Colonialism
- Basics of Foreign Policy
- Indian Foreign Policy

5. Sources of Area Studies Research

- Description of source material with specific focus on primary and secondary sources
- Sources specific to Canada, US and Latin America

6. Analysis in Research

- Analysis of historical, geographical, regional, strategic and cultural factors that determine conflict or cooperation
- Intelligence data analysis
- Attributes of strategic analyst

7. Critical Thinking and Academic Research

- Attributes of a good critique
- Critical thinking
- Evaluating Information with Critical Thinking

8. Academic Writing

- Language Proficiency
- Attributes of effective PhD thesis
- Research Proposal writing
- Report writing
- Preparing Executive Summary/Abstract writing

Readings

- Alexander L. George and Andrew Bennett, 'Case-Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences', (Massachusetts: MIT Press, 2005)
- Andersen, Niels Akerstrom, 'Discursive Analytical Strategies: Understanding Foucault,
- Blaikie, Norman, 'Analyzing Quantitative Data', (London: Sage, 2013)
- Charles William Kegley & Shannon Lindsey Blanton, 'World Politics: Trend and Transformation', (Cengage Learning, 2010-11)
- Christopher Lamont, 'Research Methods in International Relations', (Oxford :Oxford University Press, 2021)
- D. R. Howarth, 'Poststructuralism and After : Structure, Subjectivity and Power', (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2013)
<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&site=eds-live&db=edsebk&AN=659241>
- King, Gary C., Robert Keohane and Sidney Verba, 'Designing Social Inquiry:
- Koselleck, Laclau, Luhmann, (Bristol: Policy Press, 2003)
- 'Microsoft Manual of Technical Publication', <https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/style-guide/welcome/>
- Norman Fairclough, 'Analysing Discourse', (London: Routledge, 2003)
- Norman Fairclough, 'Discourse and Social Change' (Cambridge: Polity Press, 1992)

- Norman K. Denzin, 'The Sage Handbook of Qualitative Research', (London: Sage, 2018)
- P.T. Jackson, 'The Conduct of Inquiry in International Relations : Philosophy of Science and Its Implications for the Study of World Politics', (Hoboken: Routledge, 2010), <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&site=eds-live&db=edsebk&AN=1214790>
- Patricia Leavy, 'Research Design', (London: Guilford Press, 2017)
- R.A. Rhodes, &M. Bevir, 'Routledge Handbook of Interpretive Political Science', (London: Routledge, 2015), <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&site=eds-live&db=edsebk&AN=1021249>
- Rhodes, R. A. W., &Bevir, M., 'Routledge Handbook of Interpretive Political Science', (London: Routledge, 2015), <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&site=eds-live&db=edsebk&AN=1021249>
- Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research', (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1994)
- 'The Chicago Manual of Style', <https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/home.html>
- Van Evera, 'What Are Case Studies? How Should They Be Performed?' in 'Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science', (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1997)

***Reading list is dynamic in nature.**