

Centre for West Asian Studies

School of International Studies

Course		PhD
Course No	:	WA613N
Course title	:	Research Methodology
Course Type		Core
Course teacher	:	Dr. Amit Kumar
Credits	:	Four
Contact hours	:	Four hours per week

Course Objectives: The prime objective of the course is to understand the underlying relationship between theory and method and the different viewpoints that exist at the epistemological and ontological levels. The course will also reflect upon the development of Post-structuralist and Post-modernist discourses and its impact on social science research, particularly in the discipline of International Relation (IR) and area studies. Further, the discussion will be focused on familiarizing students with the preparatory aspects of research, such as selection of topic, literature review, research design, hypothesis formulation etc. The course will also highlight various methods of data collection in social science research and its quantification and analysis particularly in the context of West Asian region.

Learning Outcomes: To enhance research skill among students through systematic implementation of various methods and techniques of data collection particularly in the field of IR and area studies. It will make students suitable for applying analytical and critical thinking and to expand their depth in the concerned field and open up new avenues for innovative research. Overall, the course will make students suitable to peruse career in the field of academics or in various research organization/think-tank, media-houses, NGO etc.

Evaluation Methods: Active participation of the students through consistent encouragement for classroom discussion and developing the habit of self-exploring the subject will be the primary teaching strategy. Further, the technology-mediated teaching-learning process will be encouraged. The evaluation will be based on students' performance in assignment preparation and presentation, mid/end semester examinations and class participation.

Course Content:

Unit – 1: Context of Social Research - 1

- a. Theory-Method relation
- b. Post-structuralist and Post-modernist

Context of Social Research - 2

- a. Epistemological and Ontological Considerations
- b. Ethics and Politics in Social Research

Unit – 2: Research Design and Formulation of Research Questions

- a. Basic Elements of the Social Research: Concepts and Hypothesis
- b. Collection of Data: Primary and Secondary sources

Unit -3: Probability and Sampling

- a. Interview Schedule and Questionnaire
- b. Observation
- c. Case Study

Unit -4: Quantitative Data Analysis

- a. Content Analysis

Unit-5: Mixed Method Research

- a. Report/Thesis Writing

Readings

Alderson, P. (1998). 'Confidentiality and Consent in Qualitative Research', *Network: Newsletter of the British Sociological Association*, 69: 6-7.

Allison, G.T. (1971). *Essence of Decision: Explaining the Cuban Missile Crisis*. Boston: Little, Brown.

Alvesson , M. (2002). *Postmodernism and Social Research*. Buckingham: Open University Press.

Atkinson, P. (1990). *The Ethnographic Imagination: Textual Construction of Society*. London: Routledge.

Bailey, Kenneth D. (1982). *Methods of Social Research*. New York: The Free Press.

Banks, M. (2001). *Visual Methods in Social Research*. London: Sage.

Bauman, Z. (1978). *Hermeneutics and Social Science: Approaches to Understanding*. London: Hutchison.

Becker, H.S. (1986). *Writing for Social Scientists: How to Start and Finish Your Thesis, Book, or Article*. Chicago: University of Chicago press.

Bell, C., and Roberts, H (1984). *Social Researching: Politics, Problems, Practice*. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul.

Berelson, B. (1952). *Content Analysis in Communication Research*. New York: Free Press.

Berg, Bruce L. (1989). *Qualitative Research Methods for the Social Sciences*. Boston: Allyn & Bacon.

Bhaskar, R. (1975). *A Realisty Theory of Science*. Leeds: Leeds Books.

Blaikie, Norman (2000). *Designing Social Research*. Cambridge: Polity Press.

- Bogdam, R., and Taylor, S.J. (1975). *Introduction to Qualitative Research Methods: A Phenomenological Approach to the Social Sciences*. New York: Wiley.
- Bryman, A. (2012). *Social Research Methods*. 4th edn. New Delhi: OUP.
- Burns, Robert B. (2000). *Introduction to Research Methods*. London: Sage Publications.
- Charmaz, K. (2006). *Constructing Grounded Theory: A Practical Guide through Qualitative*
- Goode, W. J. and Hatt, P. K. (1952). *Methods of Social Research*. New York: McGraw Hill.
- Hobbs, D., and Wright, R. (2006 ed.). *The Sage Handbook of Fieldwork*. London: Sage.
- Kothari, C.R. (1992). *Research Methodology: Method and Techniques*. New Delhi: Wiley Eastern Ltd.
- Lewis-Beck, M.S., Bryman, A., and Liao, T.F. (2004 ed.). *The Sage Encyclopedia of Social Science Research Methods*. 3 vols. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Moser, C.A. and G.Kalton (1980). *Survey Methods in Social Investigation*. London: Language Book Society.
- Sandars, William B. and Pinhey, Thomas K. (1974). *The Conduct of Social Research*. New York: Holt Rinehart and Winston.
- Therese, Baker L. (1988). *Doing Social Research*. New York: McGraw Hill Books Co.
- Yin, R.K. (1989). *Case Study Research Design and Method*. Newburg Park, C.A.: Sage Publications.