

Course title: Research Methodology				
Course code: MEU 176		No. of credits: 2	L-T-P: 14-14-0	Learning hours: 28
Pre-requisite course code and title (if any): NA				
Department: Department of Policy Studies				
Course coordinator: V.K.Srivastava			Course instructor: V.K.Srivastava	
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Course type: Core			Course offered in: Semester 2	
Course description:				
<p>The course is on the methods (techniques, tools, and analytical procedures) that are used in undertaking research in academic disciplines. Although each discipline (and sub-discipline) may have its own specific procedures for carrying out research, there is a reservoir of methods that cuts across different specializations and interests. In fact, some scholars speak of the methodological unity of all sciences, notwithstanding different specializations and subject matters of each one of them. This course is concerned with the latter methods with specific reference to urban societies and complexes. When we speak of research, we mean 'empirical research', that is research based on a systematic collection of facts and their analysis and interpretation. Facts may be classified into those that can be counted in numbers (quantitative) and those that need to be described in words (qualitative). Quantitative and qualitative aspects are the ways in which the universe is represented; and both are eminently combined.</p> <p>The course is mainly concerned with qualitative research methods. It introduces the students to the philosophical and methodological dimensions of research, thus providing a gateway to the writing up of a dissertation/thesis by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introducing the students to the basic concepts and terminologies of research, and train them in methods, techniques, tools, and methodologies. • Preparing the students to propose research ideas and write these up. • Develop the skills of the student in using library and web resources. 				
Course objectives:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing research sense, formulating hypotheses, in case the research topic demands, and then applying appropriate techniques and methods to test the hypotheses. • Students will also be trained in undertaking descriptive researches. • Students will select an area of interest and develop a research question. They will use a cluster of techniques, methods, and tools as discussed in class and understand the appropriate methodology to be followed while conducting independent research. • The final output of the course will be a proposal that would briefly outline (in about one thousand five hundred to two thousand words) the background, introduction, methodology that could potentially serve as the main proposal for a dissertation/thesis. 				
Course contents				
Module	Topic	L	T	P
1	Module 1: What is a Master's Thesis a) Sample proposals and what the thesis looked like upon completion. Assignment: 3-4 research ideas (1/2-1 page)	2	1	
2	Module 2: Introduction a) How to frame a statement of the problem as precisely as possible & discuss <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What the Study is about; • Major objectives of the Study; and • Justification of the choice for your topic. Assignment: Based on selected idea write an introduction + hypothesis (1 page)	2	4	
3	Module 3: Background to the Study a) How to provide background information in as much detail as appropriate, but as precisely as possible. Ex. A study on water pollution, the background information could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When the pollution was discovered; 	2	3	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Source (if known); • Geographic location and extent of contamination; • Number of people affected; etc. • Impacts on environment and human health effects <p>Assignment: Write a background for the research idea and hypothesis (1/2 pages)</p>			
4	<p>Module 4: Literature Review</p> <p>a) What are the components of a good literary review? How to selectively discuss the literature pertaining to study, with 2 critical components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previous studies related are examined and analyzed; • Gaps left behind by such studies, which you seek to bridge in your study. <p>Assignment: Distinguish between Background and Introduction sections (3 pages each)</p>	2	2	
5	<p>Module 5: Methodology</p> <p>a) All methods used in collecting your data (e.g. structured survey, elite interviews, aggregate data, focus group, etc.), with a justification for each method used;</p> <p>b) If questionnaires, general contents and how it will be administered and how to appendix for the report;</p> <p>c) Sample studied by addressing the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the total population from which the sample will be selected? • How to select the final sample to make it representative? <p>Assignment: Write the methodology section to include all possible analysis to be used (2 page)</p>	4	3	
	<p>Module 5: Pitfalls</p> <p>a) What are the likely pitfalls one may encounter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case studies <p>Assignment: 1 page list</p>	2	1	
	Total	14	14	
Evaluation criteria:				
	Weightage (%)			
Class participation	: 20%			
Presentation	: 20%			
Major Exam	: 60%			
Learning outcomes:				
On completion of this course, the students would:				
a) Carry out independent research.				
b) Be able to formulate research designs depending upon the problems they choose to study, and think systematically and cogently.				
c) Research will become a part of their learning experiences				
d) Be able to reflect upon the entire process.				
Pedagogical approach:				
The course will be delivered through a mix of classroom lectures and discussions.				
Suggested readings:				
Readings will be suggested during the course of lectures .				
Additional information (if any):NA				
Student responsibilities:				
Attendance, feedback, discipline: as per university rules.				

Course reviewers: