Course title: Major Project-I			
Course code: PPS 200	**No. of credits:** 20	**L-T-P**: 00-00-600	**Learning hours:** 300
Pre-requisite course code and title (if any): None			
Department: Department of Policy & Management Studies			
Course coordinator(s): Dr. Gaurika Chugh		**Course instructor(s):** Dr. Gaurika Chugh	
Contact details: gaurika.chugh@terisas.ac.in			
Course Type: Core		**Course offered in:** 3rd Semester	

Course Description

This course provides students with an opportunity to gain practical experience through internships with relevant development or policy research organizations while conducting independent research for their thesis. Internships allow students to apply academic theories and concepts learned in the classroom to real-world situations, helping to solidify their understanding and connect theoretical frameworks to practical challenges. Engaging in actual projects and responsibilities within organizations emphasizes experiential learning, which is often more effective than theoretical study alone. In addition to acquiring essential professional skills, internships also provide students with opportunities to develop interpersonal skills, adaptability, teamwork, and problem-solving abilities, all of which are essential in professional environments. Working in reputed development or policy research organizations allows students to build a network of professional contacts, which can be invaluable while seeking future job opportunities or collaborative projects. Interns often have the chance to work closely with experienced professionals who can provide guidance, advice, and potential mentorship to shape their professional career.

For Public Policy students, internships provide firsthand experience with research design, data collection, and analysis, deepening their understanding of research methodologies. They often get a chance to work on ongoing influential research projects, giving students the opportunity to contribute to meaningful results that can directly impact policy decisions. Engaging in impactful projects nurtures a sense of civic responsibility and awareness of social issues, encouraging students to be active contributors to society.

This practical course is placed in two parts with a semester-long practical learning exposure in each part. They are offered in third and fourth semesters, respectively. However, each part of this 'Major Project' course is independent in terms of evaluation. After having intensive engagement with foundational and perspective-based deliberations during the first two semesters of the Programme, the students are encouraged and assisted to develop their firm interests in their area of professional work. Students are motivated to approach and choose any development or policy research organization of interest, while they are assisted by the opportunities forwarded by the Institute Placement Cell. After getting an internship opportunity by an organization, the student is expected to get acclimatized with the working environment in the organization for an initial few weeks while simultaneously exploring the suitable topic for carrying out policy-oriented research under the mentorship of an external supervisor from the host organization and an assigned supervisor from the TERI SAS. Students get a semester long period to conceptualize, work, and prepare a Major Project Thesis to be submitted to the Programme and the Department. Students are expected to strictly follow the timelines as per the Major Project Guideline provided by the Major Project Coordinator in the beginning of the third semester.

Course objectives

- To provide students with a platform to gain hands-on experience in a professional setting relevant to the student's area of study/research interest.
- To equip students with proven research skills through the completion of a thesis project.
- To assist students to foster critical thinking, analytical skills, and professional development.
- To orient students to integrate practical experience with academic knowledge.

Course content

Module	Topic	L	T	P

1.	**Internship Preparation (Weeks 1-2)**
	• Week 1: Orientation and Skill Assessment
	  ○ Introduction to the course structure and expectations.
	  ○ Workshops on resume writing, interview preparation, and professional etiquette.
	  ○ Assessment of student skills and interests to align with potential internship opportunities.
	• Week 2: Placement and Agreement
	  ○ Assistance in securing internships with relevant organizations.
		2	0	60

	○ Completion of internship agreements and clarification of roles and expectations.			
2.	**Internship Experience (Weeks 3-19)** • Practical Internship Work ○ Internship Commitment: Students will engage in a minimum of 30 hours per week at their designated internship organization, applying their skills and gaining industry/organizational experience. ○ Weekly Reflection and Monthly Reporting: Students will maintain a weekly journal/diary, documenting their experiences and reflections, which they will compile in Monthly Progress Reports to be submitted through TERI SAS Major Project Portal to their faculty advisors. ○ Mid-Internship Review (Week 9): Students will be asked to share a review of the internship experience with their faculty advisors, discussing challenges, learnings, and research interests related to internship work.	0	0	536
3.	**Thesis Development (Weeks 5-20)** • Week 5: Thesis Proposal Development ○ Meeting and discussion with Faculty Advisor for finalising research questions and relevant research methodologies ○ Preparation and submission of a thesis proposal outlining research questions and objectives. • Weeks 6-20: Thesis Research and Writing ○ Data Collection and Analysis: Students will conduct research as outlined in the approved thesis proposal, which includes collecting and analyzing data relevant to their thesis topic. ○ Regular Meetings with Faculty Advisor: Bi-weekly meetings to discuss progress, seek guidance, and receive feedback on thesis work.	0	0	
4.	**Thesis Presentation and Submission (Weeks 19-20)** • Week 19: Thesis Presentation and Reflection ○ Students will present their research findings to a panel of faculty members, followed by a question-and-answer session to defend their work, and getting feedback. ○ Students will reflect on the overall experience in both the internship and thesis process, discussing key learnings and how they will apply these insights to their future career. • Week 20: Thesis Submission ○ Finalize and submit the complete thesis document after incorporating the feedback received during the presentation and adhering to institutional formatting and submission guidelines.	0	0	
	TOTAL	**2**	**0**	**596**

Evaluation criteria:

An evaluation committee will be formed to assess the major project. The distribution of marks for the evaluation would be as per the following criteria:

- **Timeline adherence (10 marks):** Thesis Proposal (2), four progress reports (1 each), final dissertation/thesis (4).
- **Research Proposal (10 marks):** Graded based on clarity, relevance, and methodological rigor.
- **Presentation and viva (30 marks):** The presentation will be evaluated based on the content outlined as follows: (a) Background/Introduction; (b) Research Questions; (c) Objective(s); (d) Materials & methods; (e) Results and discussion; (f) Conclusion; (g) Limitations and future scope of work.
- **Thesis (50 marks):** Assessed on research quality, analysis, and presentation.

Grading criteria:

- The students scoring less than or equal to 40% (or ≤ 40%) overall marks in the evaluation would be considered unsuccessful and would be graded F (fail).
- Grading of the Major Project will be done following the absolute grading system as per the grade classification presented in Table 1:

Table 1. Major project part – grading

Marks Range (%)	Grade
> 90	A+
> 80 ≤ 90	A
> 70 ≤ 80	B+
> 60 ≤ 70	B
> 50 ≤ 60	C+
> 45 ≤ 50	C
> 40 ≤ 45	D
≤ 40	F

Research Ethics Adherence (Plagiarism):

TERI SAS has zero tolerance for plagiarism. As per UGC (Regd. no. D. L.-33004/99) dissertation/thesis or any other such documents should be free from plagiarism at the time of submission by the student. Plagiarism test shall be conducted on the draft submission of the report. The plagiarism report will be shared with the students and will be assigned to external/internal supervisors to address the plagiarism concerns. The plagiarism report and its percentage would be evaluated with a plagiarism check tool (software) and then verified by a faculty committee within the Department and would be analysed in terms of similarity sections/texts (e.g., mathematical formulations/ derivations, footnotes, etc.) in case the similarity proportion exceeds the standard limit prescribed by the University. Based on the finalized plagiarism percentage (of similarity) the marks would be deducted as given in Table 2. It would be the responsibility of the student to resolve the plagiarism issue in consultation with external/internal supervisor and the thesis would deem to be fit for submission upon written consent of external/internal supervisors to Major Project Coordinator.

Table 2. Penalty imposed on the student based on plagiarism as per UGC guidelines.

Level of Plagiarism	Similarity Proportion (%)	Maximum percentage marks to be deducted from the full marks
Level 3	> 60%	Student's registration to the Programme stands cancelled
Level 2	> 40% ≤ 60%	Student repeats the Major Project next year
Level 1	> 10% ≤ 40%	The student is required to resubmit the revised Thesis within a week
Level 0	≤ 10%	No deduction of marks

Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students would be able to:

- translate theoretical frameworks into practical solutions for real-world development or policy challenges.
- collaborate effectively with professionals from diverse backgrounds within a team-based environment.
- develop essential professional skills, including communication, teamwork, problem-solving, and adaptability, crucial for success in professional environments.

Pedagogical approach:

As required by the Thesis topic identified by the Student and agreed by the Supervisor.

Suggested readings:

It is a practical exercise using the knowledge gained from other taught courses and through the review process.

Relevant literature, reports, textbooks, case studies, journals, databases will be suggested to the students based on the context and requirements.

Additional Information:

1. A separate Major Project Guideline indicating timeline of different activities, and other details will be shared by the Coordinator before the start of the semester.
2. Only students meeting the CGPA criteria of 6, for second semester, as defined in Students Handbook will be allowed to take up Major Project course, failing which under no circumstance's student would be allowed to carry out Major Project. It can only be allowed in exceptional circumstances duly approved by the competent authority, where the student must have secured SGPA of 6 in the second semester.
3. Students, who need to repeat the Major Project due to exceptional circumstances, will be allowed to complete the Major Project with the appropriate approval from the competent authority only in the semester designated for the Major Project Thesis. Students should ensure that the work conducted while repeating the Major Project is not just an extension of the research from the previous Major Project, but it includes substantial contribution utilizing the allotted time period.

Supervisor:

A faculty member from TERI School of Advanced Studies (TERI SAS) or TERI will be assigned to each student who will supervise the student's major project work. Students should develop a plan of work under the guidance of the faculty Supervisor and carry out the project work at the host organisation/or at place of work in case of employed candidate. The student should identify the Supervisor from TERI SAS and discuss the proposed work with him/her. The name of the supervisor should be communicated to the Major Project Coordinator. The preference for a Supervisor should be purely based on the area of the work during the Major Project. The identification of the Supervisor should be done well before the finalization of the exact topic and the thesis proposal submission to the Programme.

Student responsibilities:

- Adhering to the issued instructions and guidelines of the Major Project in entirety.
- Regular updating of the progress of work to the Mentor/Supervisor.
- Timely submission of all required documents through portal.

Course Outline prepared by: Dr. Chandan Kumar

Course Reviewers

1. Dr. Sunil Pandey, Director, Circular Economy and Waste Management, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi, India.
2. Dr. Prashanth N. Srinivas, Director & Health Equity Cluster Lead, Institute of Public Health, Bengaluru, India.

Additional Information

This Course outline was approved in the 60th Academic Council Meeting held on 24th December 2024 at TERI School of Advanced Studies, New Delhi.