

Tata Institute of Social Sciences

Doctoral Students Office (DSO)

Ph.D. coursework (2023)

Framework of Coursework for the first semester anchored by School of Research Methodology:

Type of Courses	Course titles	Credits
Basic Research Methodology Courses (Five courses offered and anchored at School of Research Methodology)	BC01: Introduction to Social Science Research	2
	BC02: Theoretical approaches to Social Science Research	2
	BC03: Quantitative Research Methods	2
	BC04: Qualitative Research Methods	2
	BC05: Ethics in Social Science Research	2
Thematic Courses for Research (One thematic course to be chosen from the courses offered by Schools/Centres)*	Thematic Course	2
Total Credits**		12

* Thematic courses/optional courses offered by Schools and centres for the erstwhile M.Phil. taught programme. An updated list of thematic courses will be prepared by DSO in coordination with secretariats of Schools and Centres.

** The total credits mentioned here are the minimum credit requirement for the Ph.D. coursework as prescribed by the UGC.

Course content; course objectives; course pedagogy and assessment of the courses are given below:

BC01: Introduction to Social Science Research

Course objectives:

- 1.To familiarise with the process of research and its different notions
- 2.To understand the basic nature of social science research
3. To analyse the inter-linkage of research questions, objectives and research design
4. To enable to identify research theme and to develop a research proposal

Course content:

Unit I: Meaning of Research and its different connotations; Ways of knowing – method of tradition, intuition, authority and scientific method; Salient features of scientific method; Steps involved in conducting research – Induction and Deduction. Types of Research – Pure research and Applied research (8 hours)

Unit II: Nature and Scope of Social science research – Salient features of social science research – issues of generalization and objectivity; types of social science research – Action research, Ethnographic research, Historical research, Research based on secondary data; Purposes of social science research; Significance of social science research; Different stakeholders in Social Science Research; Research Ethics – the relationship between researcher and researched – ethical protocol for conducting research (12 hours)

Unit III: Problem formulation in Social Science Research - Identification of the problem area; Review of literature; Formulation of Research Questions and Objectives; Research Designs – meaning and components of research design; typology of research designs – quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods; developing a research proposal (10 hours)

Pedagogy: Mainly classroom lectures with discussions and few seminars

Method of Assessment: Presentation and Written Assignment (50%) and Written Assignment (50%)

Readings

- Bernard H.R.2000. *Social Research Methods – Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches*.
Blaikie Norman. 2007.*Approaches to Social Enquiry* (2nd Edition)
Bryman Alan. 1988. *Quantity and Quality in Social Research*.
Creswell, John W.2003.*Research Design – Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Method Approaches* (Second Edition)
Gray David E. 2009. *Doing Research in Real World* (2nd Edition)
Neuman W.L.2000.*Social Research Methods. (Fourth Edition)*
Ramachandran.P.1993.*Survey Research for Social Work- A Primer*.
Rubin Allen and Babbie Earl.1997. *Research Methods for Social Work (Third Edition)*.
Sarantakos S.2005.*Social Research* (Third edition)

BC02: Theoretical Approaches to Social Science Research

Course objectives

- 1.To map the ontology and epistemology of major social science theories
- 2.To delineate the link between specific theories and the methods/techniques of research
- 3.To enable to develop a theoretical framework for a research

Course content:

Unit I: Introduction: Locating the discourse – Theory, method and fact – Enlightenment and positivism - Verification and falsification debate – the structure of scientific revolution; Empiricism and sui generis nature of social reality (8 hours)

Unit II: Structural functionalism- Structuralism – post structuralism; Interpretative approach – Verstehen approach; Interactionism and the social construction of reality- Symbolic Interactionism – Phenomenology; Psychological theories – Behaviourism – Psychoanalysis (12 hours)

Unit III: Dialectics and materialist conception of history – Economic determinism – Neo-Marxism; Feminism – Mainstream social research as androcentric ideology – Social construction of gender – Structure-agency tensions; Postmodernism and the critique of social science research/theories (10 hours)

Pedagogy: Mainly classroom lectures with discussions and few seminars

Method of Assessment: Presentation and Written Assignment (50%) and Written Assignment (50%)

Readings

- Adams, Bert N. And R.A. Sydie. 2001. *Sociological Theory*.
- Aron, Raymond. 1970. *Main Currents in Sociological Thought (Vol.2)*
- Collins, Randall. 1997. *Theoretical Sociology*.
- Craib, Ian. 1984. *Modern Social Theory*.
- Delamont, Sara. 2003. *Feminist sociology*.
- Emile Durkheim. 1982. *The Rules of Sociological Method*.
- Featherstone, M. 1988. *Postmodernism*.
- Kuhn, Thomas S.1970. *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions (Second Edition, Enlarged)*.
- Kuper, Adam. 1973. *Anthropologists and Anthropology: The British School, 1922 – 72*.
- Marrison, Ken. 1995. *Marx, Durkheim, Weber: Formation of Modern Social Thought*.
- Mills, C. Wright.1967. *The Sociological Imagination*.
- Norris, C.1991. *What is wrong with Postmodernism*.
- Ritzer, George. 1992. *Sociological Theory*.
- Robert K. Merton. 1968. *Social Theory and Social Structure*.
- T. B. Bottomore & Maximilien Rubel. 1962. *Karl Marx: Selected Writings in Sociology and Social Philosophy*.
- Talcott Parsons. 1991. *The Social System*.
- Wann, T.W. (ed). 1964. *Behaviourism and Phenomenology: Contrasting Bases for Modern Psychology*.

BC03: Quantitative Research Methods

Course objectives:

- 1.To analyse the basic concepts and categories of quantitative research and their linkages
- 2.To examine the assumptions underlying the procedures/techniques of quantitative research
- 3.To provide training in designing and implementing quantitative research including practical training in the application of methods and techniques

Course content:

Unit I: Nature of Quantitative Research – Characteristic features of quantitative research; Steps in conducting quantitative research; Elements of quantitative research – concepts, variables and hypotheses; Quantitative research designs – longitudinal and cross-sectional; survey and experimental designs (8 hours)

Unit II: Sampling and data collection in Quantitative Research – Sampling methods and techniques – Probabilistic (random) and Non-probabilistic (non-random) methods of sample selection; determination of sample size; Sources of data – primary and secondary; nature of data – quantitative and qualitative; discrete and continuous data; Methods and tools of data collection– Interview, questionnaire, scaling techniques (10 hours)

Unit III: Data analysis in Quantitative Research – Introducing SPSS; Levels of measurement; Graphical, diagrammatic and tabular presentation of data; Descriptive statistics – mean, median, mode; range, standard deviation and coefficient of variance; Inferential statistics – Hypotheses testing – Chi-square test, t-test (12 hours)

Pedagogy: Mainly classroom lectures with discussions and few seminars

Method of Assessment: Presentation and Written Assignment (50%) and Written Assignment (50%)

Readings

Babbie Earl. 2004. The Practice of Social Research (10th Edition)

Cramer Duncan 1994. Introducing statistics for social research.

Carver Robert H and Nash Jane Garadwohl. 2006. Doing Data Analysis with SPSS.

Gray David E. 2009. Doing Research in Real World (2nd Edition).

Jackson Sherri L.2009. Research Methods and Statistics (3rd Edition).

Knoke David and Bohrnstedt George W. 1988. Statistics for Social Data Analysis (2nd Edition).

Mcburney Donald H and White Theresa L .2007. Research Methods (7th Edition).

BC04: Qualitative Research Methods

Course objectives

- 1.To explain the philosophical and theoretical foundations of qualitative research
- 2.To provide training in designing and implementing qualitative research with emphasis on data analysis
- 3.To sensitise on ethical dimensions of qualitative research

Course content:

Unit I: Nature of Qualitative Research – Ontological and Epistemological assumptions of qualitative research; Characteristic features of qualitative research; Approaches of qualitative research – Ethnography, Participatory Action Research, Grounded theory and Case study (10 hours)

Unit II: Research design in qualitative research – selection of cases/participants (sampling) – principles of diversity and saturation; In-depth methods of data collection – participant observation, unstructured interviews, focus group discussion, life histories, participatory and rapid assessment procedures; Reliability and validity of qualitative data – triangulation and thick description; Ethical issues in qualitative data collection and presentation (10 hours)

Unit III: Data Analysis in Qualitative research – Organizing the data- recording, storing and retrieving the data – summarizing and reducing data through coding; thematic analysis; software tools for data analysis (Atlas. Ti) – interpretation and understanding (10 hours)

Pedagogy: Mainly classroom lectures with discussions and few seminars

Method of Assessment: Presentation and Written Assignment (50%) and Written Assignment (50%)

Readings

- Bernard H.R.2000. *Social Research Methods – Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches*.
Bryman Alan. 1988. *Quantity and Quality in Social Research*.
Clough Peter and Nutbrown Cathy. 2007. *Methodology*
Creswell, John W.2003.*Research Design – Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Method Approaches (Second Edition)*.
Christopher Hahn.2008. *Doing Qualitative Research Using Your Computer - A Practical Guide*.
David E. Gray. 2009.*Doing Research in the Real World*
Denzin N.K & Lincoln Y.S .2000. *Handbook of Qualitative Research*
Jane F.Gilgun and et al .1992. *Qualitative Methods in Family Research*
Jerry W.Willis and et al. 2007.*Foundations of Qualitative Research*
Liamputtong Pranee.2006. *Researching the Vulnerable – A Guide to Sensitive Research Methods*
McIntyre Alice. 2008. *Participatory Action Research*.
Morgan David L.2009. *Focus Group as Qualitative Research*.
Paul D. Leedy.1997. *Practical Research – Planning and Design (Sixth Edition)*
Robert K. Yin.1984. *Case Study Research – Design and Methods*
Sharan B Merriam.2009. *Qualitative Research – A Guide to Design and Implementation*
Silverman David.2006. *Interpreting Qualitative Data (Third Edition)*

BC05: Ethics in Social Science Research

Course objectives:

- 1.To introduce ethical rules, principles and theories and their underlying philosophical foundations
- 2.To sensitize about the ethical issues in Social Science Research
- 3.To provide training to develop ethical protocol for conducting Social Science Research

Course content

Unit I: Introduction to Ethics: Different domains of ethics – Descriptive ethics, Normative ethics, Meta-ethics and Applied ethics; Historical overview of research ethics – Nuremberg Code of ethics, The report of the Surgeon General of the Public Health Service in 1966, The Belmont Report in 1978; Ethical framework and regulations for Social Science Research (10 hours)

Unit II: Ethics in Social Science Research: Ethical Rules - Informed consent, Voluntary participation Confidentiality, Anonymity, Privacy, Autonomy, Fair Selection, No Deception, Trustworthiness, No Plagiarism and No Fabrication; Ethical Principles- Nonmaleficence, Beneficence, Respect for persons, Justice, Fidelity and Integrity; Ethical theories – Utilitarianism and Deontology; Inter-linkages between ethical rules, ethical principles and ethical theories (10 hours)

Unit III: Ethical issues in Social Science Research: Issues in data collection, processing and reporting the findings; Issues arising out of relationship between researcher and researched; Ethical dilemmas; Protocols for conducting ethically appropriate Social Science Research; Software tools for detecting plagiarism (10 hours)

Pedagogy: Mainly classroom lectures with discussions and few seminars

Assessment: Presentation and Written Assignment (50%) and Written Assignment (50%)

Readings:

Diener Edward and Crandall Rick.1978. Ethics in Social and Behavioral Research

Gregory Ian. 2005.Ethics in Research

Hammersley Martyn and Trainou Anna.2012. Ethics in Qualitative Research – Controversies and Contexts

Jesani Amar/Jaitly and Tejal Barai (Eds).2005. Ethics in Health Research: A Social Science Perspective

Mertens Donna M and Ginsberg Pauline E (Eds). 2009. The Handbook of Social Research Ethics

Reynolds P D.1979.Ethical Dilemmas in Social Science Research

Sieber J E.1991.Planning Ethically Responsible Research: A Guide for Students

Sjoberg Gideon (Ed)1967.Ethics, Politics and Social Research