

Course Title: Research Methodology
Course No: SA 617
Total Credits: Three (3)
Course Teachers: Prof Mondira Dutta & Dr. Mahesh Debata

INTRODUCTION

The course would introduce the students of the Centre to broad epistemological and methodological issues in social sciences with particular reference to International Relations and Area Studies. The focus will be on how to collect data, how to critically analyse them and how best to test their veracity and reliability keeping in view both the realistic and normative dimensions of social science research. In this context emphasis will be given to bibliographic resources that would enhance the ability of the course participants to evaluate the collected research materials and conduct scientifically based research in their chosen areas. It would be imperative, therefore, to provide training in both qualitative and quantitative techniques of research including the statistical methods. All these objectives will be achieved through a blending of formal lectures, interactive sessions and classroom assignments. At the end of the semester there will be a written examination

EVALUATION PATTERN

An end-semester examination will be held for two credits (60%) covering the entire syllabus. The remaining one credit (40%) will be on the basis of internal assessments to be conducted by the concerned teachers.

COURSE CONTENTS

Section I: Definition, Scope and Approaches to Social Science Research

Social science research and natural science research; Definitions of research: Lundberg, Francis Rummel; functions of research, objectives and significance; Methods in social research; Limitations of social science research; Importance of theories and facts in research

Section II: Importance of Area Studies and Theories of International Relations

Basic parameters of IR research; International relations, area studies and the art of diplomacy—methodological differences; Cultural and psychological approaches to IR research; Domestic politics/foreign policy interface-decision making dynamics; Ideology and IR research.

Section III :Research Design, Sources of Information& Descriptive Statistics

Sources of Information and techniques of Data Collection. Classification and Tabulation of Information; Graphical and Diagrammatical Representation of Information; Application of averages and measures of Central Tendency such as mean, median and partitioned values. Measures of Dispersion – Standard Deviation and Coefficient of Variation; Identification of Research Problem and Research Design; Formulation of Hypothesis, Difference between a null hypothesis and a hypothesis.

Section IV: Comparative Analysis & Theory of Sampling

Coefficient of Correlation, Measures of Inequality, Theory of Sampling: Importance of a Sample, Characteristics of a sample, Types of Sample (simple random sampling, Aerial Random Sampling, Systematic sampling, Stratified sampling), Tests of Significance

SELECTED READINGS

Blalock, H.M., A.B. (1968) (eds.), *Methodology in Social Research*, New York.

Brooks, Philip c. (1969), *Research in Archives: The Use of Unpublished Primary Sources*, Chicago, Ill.

Seale, Clive (2008) (ed.) *Social Research Methods: A Reader*, London & NY.

Elhance D.N: Elementary Statistics

Elliot, Anthony (2010), *Contemporary Social Theory: An Introduction*.

Goode W. J. and Hatt, Paul J. (1952), *Methods in Social Research*, McGraw Hill, New York.

Holt, Rodert T., and Turner, John E. (1970) (eds), *The Methodology of Comparative Research*, NY.

Kenneth, Janda (1969), *Data Processing: Application to Political Research*, Evanston, Ill.

Lazarsfeld, Paul and Rosenberg, Morris (1967) (eds), *The Language of Social Research*, New York.

MahmoodAslam (1993): *Statistical Methods in Geographical Studies*, Rajesh Publications, New Delhi.

Tarling, Roger (2008), *Managing Social Research: A Practical Guide*, London & NY, Routledge.