

Centre for West Asian Studies
School of International Studies
M.A. International Relations-West Asian Studies

Course no.	:	WA408
Course title	:	Research Methodology
Course teacher	:	Dr. Amit Kumar
Credits	:	4
Instruction method	:	Lectures, seminars and tutorials
Evaluation method	:	Class participation, assignments & examination
Course duration	:	One semester
Contact hours	:	04 per week

Objectives: The course intends to develop an understanding of the relationship between theory and method and the different viewpoints on social enquiries. Understanding existing epistemological and ontological considerations is essential. The course will also reflect upon the development of post-structuralist and post-modernist discourses in the discipline of International Relations (IR) and area studies. Further, the focus will be on familiarising students with the preparatory aspects of research, such as the selection of topic, literature review, research design, hypothesis formulation etc. The course will also highlight various data collection methods in IR and area study research and their quantification and analysis, particularly in the context of the West Asian region.

Teaching & Evaluation Strategy: Active participation of the students is an essential element here, which will be done through consistent encouragement for classroom discussion and developing the habit of self-exploring the subject. Further, the technology-mediated teaching-learning process will be encouraged. The evaluation will be based on students' assignment preparation and presentation performance, mid/end semester examinations and class participation.

Learning Outcomes: The Course seeks to achieve the following learning outcomes:

To enhance research skills among students through the 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, expand their depth in the field, and open up new avenues for innovative research.

Course Content:

Unit – 1 Introduction to Research Methodology

Theory and fact; Values and science; Subjectivity and value neutrality; Epistemological and Ontological considerations; Ethical issues in social science research.

Unit – 2 Theories and Methods in IR &Area Studies

Different theoretical perspectives and their methodological reflection; Conceptualizing 'Area': boundaries, level and scope; Question of validity and reliability.

Unit – 3 Doing Research – I

Concepts and hypothesis; Research design; Primary and secondary sources; Probability and sampling; Case selection.

Unit – 4 Doing Research – II

Quantitative data analysis; Content analysis; Discourse analysis: Mixed Method Research; Report/Thesis Writing

Readings

Unit – 1

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

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

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

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

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

Bryman, Alan. (2012). *Social Research Methods*. 4th ed. New Delhi: OUP.

Burns, Robert B. (2000). *Introduction to Research Methods*. London: Sage Publications.

Goode, William. J. and Paul. K. Hatt.(1952). *Methods of Social Research*. New York: McGraw Hill.

Kothari, C.R. (1992). *Research Methodology: Method and Techniques*. New Delhi: Wiley Eastern Ltd.

Unit – 2

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

Bhaskar, Roy. (1975). *A Realist Theory of Science*. Leeds: Leeds Books.

Ackerly, Brooke et al. eds. (2006). *Feminist Methodologies for International Relations*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Adler, Emanuel. (1997). 'Seizing the Middle Ground: Constructivism in World Politics.' *European Journal of International Relations* (3): 319-63.

Campbell, David. (1993). *Politics Without Principles: Sovereignty, Ethics, and the Narratives of the Gulf War*. Boulder: Lynne Rienner.

Chernoff, Fred. (2005). *The Power of International Theory: Reforging the Link to Foreign Policy-Making through Scientific Enquiry*. New York: Routledge.

Unit – 3

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

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

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

Bogdam, Robert, and Steven J. Taylor. (1975). *Introduction to Qualitative Research Methods: A Phenomenological Approach to the Social Sciences*. New York: Wiley.

Hobbs, Dick, and Wright Richard. (2006 ed.). *The Sage Handbook of Fieldwork*. London: Sage.

Moser, Claus A. and Graham Kalton. (1980). *Survey Methods in Social Investigation*. London: Language Book Society.

Sanders, William B. and Thomas K. Pinhey.(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.

Unit – 4

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

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

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

Lewis-Beck, M.S.et al.ed.s. (2004). *The Sage Encyclopedia of Social Science Research Methods*. 3 vols. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Yin, Robert K. (1989). *Case Study Research Design and Method*. Newburg Park, C.A.: Sage Publications.