

**Centre for West Asian Studies**  
**Ph. D. (Revised Course outline)**

Course title	:	Research Methodology
Course No.	:	WA636 (Core Course)
Course teacher	:	Dr. Amit Kumar
Credits	:	Four
Course duration	:	One semester
Contact hours	:	Four hours per week
Semester	:	Winter

**Objectives:**

The prime objective of the course is to understand the underlying relationship between theory and method and the different viewpoints that exist at the epistemological and ontological levels. The course will also reflect upon the development of post-structuralist and post-modernist discourses and their impact on social science research, particularly in the discipline of International Relations (IR) and area studies. Further, the discussion will focus on familiarising students with the preparatory aspects of research, such as selecting topics, literature review, research design, hypothesis formulation, etc. The course will also highlight various data collection methods in social science research and their quantification and analysis, particularly in the context of the West Asian region.

**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. Overall, the course will make students suitable to pursue careers in the field of academics or in various research organisations/think tanks, media houses, NGOs, etc.

**Course Content:**

**Unit - 1**

Context of Social Research - 1

- a. Theory-Method relation
- b. Post-structuralist and Post-modernist

Context of Social Research - 2



- a. Epistemological and Ontological Considerations
- b. Ethics and Politics in Social Research

## **Unit - 2**

Research Design and Formulation of Research Questions  
Basic Elements of the Social Research: Concepts and Hypothesis  
Collection of Data: Primary and Secondary sources

## **Unit -3**

Probability and Sampling  
Interview Schedule and Questionnaire  
Observation and Case Study in International Relations

## **Unit -4**

Fieldwork in International Relations  
Quantitative Data Analysis  
Content Analysis and Discourse Analysis

## **Unit-5**

Mixed Method Research in International Relations  
Research Methods for Area Studies  
Writing Up Your Research Proposal

## **Essential Readings:-**

- Bailey, Kenneth D. (1982). *Methods of Social Research*. New York: The Free Press.
- Bryman, Alan (2012). *Social Research Methods*. 4th edn. New Delhi: OUP.
- Burns, Robert B. (2000). *Introduction to Research Methods*. London: Sage Publications.
- Goode, W. J. and Hatt, P. K. (1952). *Methods of Social Research*. New York: McGraw Hill.
- Kothari, C.R. (1992). *Research Methodology: Method and Techniques*. New Delhi: Wiley Eastern Ltd.
- Lamont, Christopher (2022). *Research Methods in International Relations*. New Delhi: Sage.
- Lewis-Beck, M.S., Bryman, A., and Liao, T.F. (2004 ed.). *The Sage Encyclopedia of Social Science Research Methods*. 3 vols. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

## **For Unit – 1**



- Alderson, P. (1998). 'Confidentiality and Consent in Qualitative Research', *Network: Newsletter of the British Sociological Association*, 69: 6-7.
- Alvesson, M. (2002). *Postmodernism and Social Research*. Buckingham: Open University Press.
- Aradau, Claudia and Huysmans, Jef (2013) 'Critical methods in International Relations: The politics of techniques, devices, and acts', *European Journal of International Relations*, 20 (3): 596-619.
- Bull, Hedley (1966) 'International Theory: The case for a classical approach' *World Politics*, 18 (3): 361-77.
- Cox, Robert (1981) 'Social forces, states and world orders: Beyond International Relation theory', *Millenium – Journal of International Studies*, 10 (2): 126-55.
- Henderson, Errol A. (2013) 'Hidden in plain sight: Racism in International Relations theory', *Cambridge Review of International Affairs*, 26 (1): 71-92.
- Kaplan, Morton A. (1966) 'The new great debate: Traditionalism vs science in International Relations', *World Politics*, 19 (1): 1-20.
- Linklater, Andrew (1992) 'The question of the next stage in International Relations Theory: A critical-theoretical point of view', *Millenium*, 21 (1): 77-98.
- Bell, C., and Roberts, H (1984). *Social Researching: Politics, Problems, Practice*. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul.
- Ashley, Richard K. (1984) 'The poverty of neorealism', *International Organization*, 38 (2): 225-86.
- Bhaskar, R. (1975). *A Realist Theory of Science*. Leeds: Leeds Books.
- Sabaratnam, Meera (2020) 'Is IR theory white? Racialized subject-positioning in three canonical texts' *Millenium: Journal of International Studies*, 49 (1): 3-31.

## **For Unit – 2**

- Atkinson, P. (1990). *The Ethnographic Imagination: Textual Construction of Society*. London: Routledge.
- Banks, M. (2001). *Visual Methods in Social Research*. London: Sage.



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

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

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

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

Noda, Orion (2020) 'Epistemic hegemony: The Western straightjacket and post-colonial scars in academic publishing', *Revista Brasileira de Politica Internacional*, 63 (1). doi. Org/10.1590/0034-7329202000107

Parashar, Swati et al (2016) 'Feminism and postcolonialism: The twain shall meet', *Postcolonial Studies*, 19 (4): 463-77.

### **For Unit – 3**

Gerring, John (2004) 'What is a case study and what is it good for?', *American Political Science Review*, 98 (2): 341-54.

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

Therese, Baker L. (1988). *Doing Social Research*. New York: McGraw Hill Books Co.

Sandars, William B. and Pinhey, Thomas K. (1974). *The Conduct of Social Research*. New York: Holt Rinehart and Winston.

Paquette, Laure (2015). *Teaching Political Science to Undergraduates: Active Pedagogy for the Microchip Mind*. De Gruyter.

### **For Unit – 4**

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

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

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



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

Denscombe, Martin (2005) *The Good Research Guide: For Small Scale Social Research Projects*. Sage.

Van Evera, Stephen. (1997) *Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science*. Cornell University Press.

## **For Unit – 5**

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

de Carvalho et al (2011) ‘The big bangs of IR: The myths that your teachers still tell you about 1648 and 1919’, *Millenium: Journal of International Studies*, 39, (3): 735-58.

Smith, Steve (2002) ‘The United States and the discipline of International Relations: “Hegemonic country, hegemonic discipline”’, *International Studies Review*, 4: 67-85.

Tickner, J. Ann (2005) ‘What is your research programme? Some feminist answers to International Relations methodological questions’, *International Studies Quarterly*, 49 (1): 1-22.

Ahram, A., Köllner, P. and Sil, Rudra. (eds) (2018) *Comparative Area Studies: Methodological Rationales and Cross-Regional Applications*. Oxford University Press.

Milutinovic, Zoran (Ed). (2020) *The Rebirth of Area Studies: Challenges for History, Politics and International Relations in the 21st Century*. Bloomsbury Publishing

Clowes, Edith. and Bromberg, Shelly J. (eds) (2016) *Area Studies in the Global Age: Community, Place, Identity*. Northern Illinois University Press.