

COURSE TITLE: RESEARCH METHODS AND ACADEMIC WRITING

Course Code: Psy.427

Nature of course: Theory and Practical

Paper: VII

Full Marks: 100

Theory: 70 + Practical: 30

Total lecture hours 150

Course objectives: The objective of this paper is to equip students with theoretical knowledge and research skills in doing social science research.

Course Details

Unit I. Foundation of research

10

Philosophical foundations of research: empiricism and constructivism

Unit II. Introduction of Research

15

1. Nature and scope of social research
2. Characteristics of good research
3. Steps in social research.

Unit III. Fundamental concepts in Research:

18

1. Concepts and constructs,
2. Variables and types
3. Operationalization of variables
4. Research problem
5. Hypothesis
6. Ethics in research
7. Biases in Research

Unit IV. Review of Literature

9

1. Concept and purpose of Literature review
2. Sources of literature
3. Steps in literature review
4. Summarizing and paraphrasing
5. Citation and referencing

Unit V. Research Designs

9

1. Descriptive Research
2. Explorative Research
3. Action Research
4. Longitudinal Research
5. Cross-cultural Research
6. Qualitative approach
7. Quantitative approach



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Unit VI. Sampling**5**

1. Meaning and basic concepts in sampling
2. Sampling designs

Unit VII. Data Collection**8**

1. Types and sources of data
2. Data collection tools: Scales and types. pre testing, reliability and validity of tools
3. Data collection techniques:
 - i. Experimental method
 - ii. Observation method
 - iii. Surveys and interviews
 - iv. Case study
 - v. Correlational method
 - vi. Phenomenology
 - vii. PRA and RRA
 - viii. Triangulation

Unit VIII. Research Proposal**5**

- a. Meaning
- b. Purpose
- c. Format of research proposal

Unit IX. Data Analysis and presentation**8**

- a. Classification
- b. Transcription
- c. Tabulation
- d. Diagrams and Graphs
- e. Measures of central tendency: Arithmetic mean, median and mode
- f. Measures of dispersion: Standard deviation
- g. Correlation and regression
- h. Inferential Statistics: T- test, Chi square test
- i. Thematic Analysis

Unit X. Critically Evaluating a study**18**

1. Measuring masculinity and femininity

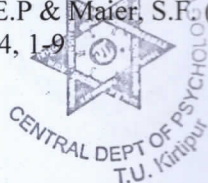
Bem, S. L. (1974). The measurement of psychological androgyny
Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology 42, 155 -62

2. Is it a bird, is it a plane...?

Collins, A. M. & Quillian, MR. (1969) Retrieval time from semantic memory.
Journal of verbal Learning and Verbal Behaviour 8, 240 – 7.

3. Learning to be helpless

Seligman, ME.P & Maier, S.F. (1967). Failure to escape traumatic shock. Journal of Experimental Psychology 74, 1-9



4. I want a girl, just like the girl, that married dear old dad

Freud, S. (1909), Analysis of a phobia of a five-year-old boy, in the Pelican Freud Library (1977), Vol. 8, Case Histories 1, pp. 169-306

5. The dance of the neonates

Condon, W.S. & Sander, L.W. (1974). Neonates movement is synchronized with adult speech: International participation and language acquisition. Science, 183, 99 – 101

Group B – Practical

Practical

Practical classes should be conducted by the concerned faculty with the assistance of psychology laboratory assistant.

The students are required to conduct a mini research on a topic of his/her interest, determine the method of data collection, collect and analyze data, prepare and submit report to the department

Internal Evaluation

Title	Marks (30)
Practical Lab Work and Field Work	20
Mid Term Examination Mark	10
Total marks	30

Recommended Books

1. Asthana, H.S. & Bhushan, B. (2007). *Statistics for Social Sciences*. PHI
2. Banyard, P. & Grayson, A. (2000). *Introducing Psychological Research*, Paigraive Macmiloan
3. Bostan, USA: Pearson.
4. Bryman, A. (2010), *Social Research Method*, Oxford Publication
5. Christensen, L.B. (2007). *Experimental Methodology*. 10th edition. USA: Pearson, Allyn and Bacon.
6. Fowler, F.J. Jr. (1995). *Improving Survey Questions: Design and Evaluation*. Sage Publication.
7. Graziano, A. & Raulin, M. L. (2007). *Research Method and A Process of Inquiry*. 6th edition.
8. Heiman, G.W. (2002). *Research Methods in Psychology*, 3rd Edition. USA: Houghton Mifflin Company.
9. Kerlinger, F.N. (1973). *Foundation of behavioural research*, Delhi: Surjeet Publications
10. Kumar, R. (1999). *Research Methodology: A Step by Step Guide to Beginners*. Sage Publication.
11. Rosnow, R. L & Rosenthal, R. (2012). *Beginning Behavioural Research: A Conceptual Primer* (7th Edition) Pearson

