

**Centre for Human Rights**

**Syllabus for Course on: Research Methodology – I**

**Qualitative Research : Debates and Methods**

**Duration : July - December**

**Rationale:**

This paper constitutes the first part of training in research methods. Students will be familiarised with the basic debates on the methods of social inquiry. This course covers major qualitative methods used in political science and highlights their characteristics, types, procedures and challenges. It will enable a research student choose a method appropriate to one's own research problem. The course will also speak about certain basic elements and the craft of thesis writing with a view to improve its overall quality.

**Unit I**

**Debates on the methods of Inquiry**

- Rationalism, Empiricism, Positivism and Interpretivism
  - Causation and Explanation
  - The Structure of the Social World and Implications for the Causal Explanation
  - Quantitative and Qualitative Methods: Complementary or Contradictory?
1. Creswell, J.W. (2007). "Philosophical, Paradigm, and Interpretive Frameworks." *Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design*. (Chapter 2) London: Sage Publications, pp. 15-34.
  2. Denzin, N.K., Lincoln, Y.S. (2005). "Introduction: The Discipline and Practice of Qualitative Research." *The Sage Handbook of Qualitative Research: Third Edition*. (Norman K. Denzin, Yvonna S .Lincoln: Editors) London: Sage Publications, pp. 1-32
  3. David Moon, 1975. "The Logic of Political Enquiry", in Fred Greenstein and Nelson Polsby, eds., *Handbook of Political Science*, Vol. 1, (Reading: M.A.: Addison-Wesley Publishing), pp.131-195.
  4. Charles Taylor, 1985. "Interpretation and the Sciences of Man", in *Collected Papers*, Vol. II (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press), pp. 15-57.
  5. Charles Tilly, 1995. "To Explain Political Processes", *American Journal of Sociology*, 100 (6): 1594-1610.
  6. Wesley Salmon, 1998. "Scientific Explanation: Causation and Unification" in *Causality and Explanation* (Oxford: Oxford University Press), pp.68-78.

**Unit II**

**Case Study**

- How to know whether and when to use the case study
  - Types of case study
  - Designing Case Studies
  - Collecting and Analysing Evidence
1. Yin, Robert K. 2002. *Case Study Research: Design and Methods*. Los Angeles, Calif. [u.a.]: Sage Publ.

2. Gerring, John. 2007. Case study research: principles and practices. New York: Cambridge University Press.
3. Harry Eckstein, 1975. "Case Study and Theory in Political Science" in Fred Greenstein and Nelson Polsby, eds., Handbook of Political Science, Vol. 7, (Reading: M.A.: Addison-Wesley Publishing), pp. 79-139.

### **Unit III**

#### **Ethnography**

- Types of Ethnographies
  - Research Design
  - Access and Field Relations
  - Oral accounts and the role of interviewing
  - Recording, Organising and Analysing Data
1. Hammersley, Martyn, and Paul Atkinson. 1983. Ethnography: principles in practice. London: Tavistock.
  2. Taylor, Stephanie. 2002. Ethnographic research: a reader [...] [...]. London [u.a.]: SAGE.

### **Unit IV**

#### **Narrative and Phenomenological Research**

- Types of Narrative Research; Reading, analysis and interpretation
  - Phenomenological Research; Hermeneutical and Psychological
  - Discourse Analysis
1. Paltridge, Brian. 2006. Discourse analysis: an introduction. London: Continuum.
  2. Heidegger, Martin, and Daniel O. Dahlstrom. 2005. Introduction to phenomenological research. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.
  3. Rapley, Tim, and Uwe Flick. 2008. Doing Conversation, Discourse and Document Analysis. London: Sage Publications.

### **Unit V**

#### **Other Methods**

- Archival and Document analysis
  - Content Analysis
1. Weber, Robert Philip. 1990. Basic content analysis. Newbury Park, Calif: Sage Publications.
  2. Ramsey, Alexis E. 2010. Working in the archives practical research methods for rhetoric and composition. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press.
  3. Kirsch, Gesa, and Liz Rohan. 2008. Beyond the archives research as a lived process. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press

### **Unit VI**

#### **Preparing the thesis**

- Preparing a research proposal
  - Review of literature
  - Research question
  - Research design, methodology and organization of the work
  - Notes and referencing styles
  - Research ethics
1. Writing a Qualitative Study Creswell, John W., and John W. Creswell. 2007. Qualitative inquiry & research design: choosing among five approaches. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications. Pp. 177-200.

2. Creswell, J.W. (2007) "Designing a Qualitative Study." *Qualitative Inquiry & Research Design*. (Chapter 3) London: Sage Publications, pp. 35-52.
3. O'Leary, Zina, and Zina O'Leary. 2010. *The essential guide to doing your research project*. Los Angeles: Sage.
4. Oliver, Paul. 2010. *The student's guide to research ethics*. Maidenhead, Berkshire, England: McGraw-Hill/Open University Press

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Syllabus for Course on: **Research Methodology – II-Quantitative**

Duration : **July – December**

**Course rationale and content:** This course aims at preparing students to conduct research in political science in the quantitative tradition. It acquaints them with their strengths as well as limitations. Students will be imparted basic skills to go about doing a research project, including sampling, collecting data, and to process and analyze it, using statistics. By the end of the course the students will learn how to formulate a researchable question relating to their research topic, think of a research design suitable for their research, and to collect and analyze information leading to meaningful and defensible conclusions.

- Unit 1: Introduction: Empirical Research in quantitative tradition; Evolution of Political Science as a discipline
- Unit 2: Building blocks of social research: Concepts, hypotheses and variables  
Developing a research question; Working with literature; Research design
- Unit 3: Sampling; Survey research: Questionnaire and Interviewing
- Unit 4: Quantitative data analysis: Descriptive statistics; Measures of Central Tendency; Measures of dispersion; Frequency Tables; Cross-Tables; Graphical Representation of Data
- Unit 5: Relationships between variables: correlation; Regression analysis
- Unit 6: Inferential Statistics: Chi Square Tests; Tests of means and proportions; Principal Component Analysis

Textbooks:

1. Janet Buttolph Johnson, H.T. Reynolds, and Jason D. Mycoff, *Political Science Research Methods*, CQ Press: Washington DC, 2008.
2. Peter Burnham, Karin Gilland Lutz, Wyn Grant and Zig Layton-Henry, *Research Methods in Politics* (Second edition), Palgrave Macmillan: New York, 2008.
3. Zina O’Leary, *The Essential Guide to Doing Your Research Project*, Sage Publications: New Delhi, 2010.
4. Michael S. Lewis-Beck, *Data Analysis: An Introduction*(Sage University Paper series on Quantitative Applications in the Social Sciences), Sage Publications: Thousand Oaks, CA, 1995.
5. David E. McNabb, *Research Methods for Political Science: Quantitative and Qualitative Methods*, PHI Learning Pvt. Ltd: New Delhi, 2009.
6. Antonius, Rachad. 2003. *Interpreting quantitative data with SPSS*. London: Sage Publications.

Internet Sources:

<http://psrm.cqpress.com>  
<http://www.socialresearchmethods.net>