

CREDIT DISTRIBUTION, ELIGIBILITY AND PRE-REQUISITES OF THE COURSE

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility criteria	Pre-requisite of the course (if any)
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
Research Methodology DSE 7 D	4	3	1	Nil	None	None

Course Objective

1. This course introduces students to the fundamental methods and approaches in philosophical research.
2. It will cover different research methods in philosophy, and practical tools for conducting original research.

3. The course will train students to frame philosophical questions, and develop the skills to produce well-argued, clear, and systematic philosophical writing
4. The course-teachers shall conduct regular exercises with students to train them in summarizing, comprehending and paraphrasing unseen passages from different texts across varied areas in Philosophy.
5. The course will introduce students to the major journals in the field and the citation methods they employ

Learning Outcomes

After going through this course, the student will

1. Understand the key research methods in philosophy, including analytic and continental methods and historical methods
2. Formulate and refine philosophical research questions.
3. Analyze and critically evaluate existing philosophical literature.
4. Construct coherent and logically sound philosophical arguments.
5. Write research papers that meet academic standards in philosophy.
6. Understand the ethical responsibilities of conducting and presenting philosophical research.

Unit 1: Types of Research Methods in Philosophy

(5 weeks, 15 hours)

1. Methods (Qualitative and Quantitative) and Problems of Philosophy
2. Approaches and Comparison of Methods
3. Critical Theory and Philosophy
4. Indian Conception of Philosophy and its methods- Sravana, Manana, and Nididhyasana

Essential/recommended readings

Chakraborti, N.N. (2018) 'Methodology in Indian Philosophy' in P. Bilimoria et al. (eds), *History of Indian Philosophy*. Routledge, Pp15-26

Mohanty, J. N. (1989). Indian philosophical tradition: The theory of pramāṇa. In Shlomo Biderman & Ben-Ami Scharfstein (eds.), *Rationality in Question: On Eastern and Western Views of Rationality*. E.J. Brill. pp. 217--230.

Prasad, H.S. (2019) 'On Buddhist Methodology' in L 'Shravak' and S Rai (eds), *Investigating Principles : International Aspects of Buddhist Culture*, The Buddha Dharma Centre of Hong Kong. Pp 289-315

Marcuse, Herbert. (1989). 'Critical Theory and Philosophy' in Bronner, Stephen Eric & Kellner, Douglas (eds.) *Critical Theory and Society: A Reader*. Routledge, Pp.58-76.

Føllesdal, Dagfinn (1996). Analytic philosophy: What is it and why should one engage in it? *Ratio* 9 (3):193-208.

Unit 2: Conducting Research and Writing Papers

(4 weeks, 12 hours)

1. Finding a Topic - Analysis, Textual, Critical, or Application based
2. Raising a Focused Question
3. Preparing Research Proposal
4. How to write a paper in philosophy

Essential/recommended readings

Martinich, A. P. (2016). *Philosophical Writing: An Introduction* (Chapters 3 and 4). Wiley-Blackwell.

Unit 3: Academic Writing Styles

(3 weeks, 9 hours)

1. Identifying the Journals in Philosophy
2. Writing Bibliography
3. Citations Methods

Essential/recommended readings

Teachers are to use **philpapers.org** to introduce students to the best journals in the field. Other resources like Scopus, Wiley, Springer, Jstor etc may also be used.

Essential /Recommended Readings:

Russell David Harper, (2010) *The Chicago Manual of Styles*, University of Chicago Press.

Publication Manual of American Psychological Association, (2020) American Psychological Association

Citation Styles: APA, MLA, Chicago, Turabian, IEEE <https://pitt.libguides.com/citationhelp>

Unit 4: Academic Ethics

(3 weeks, 9 hours)

1. Ethics in Publishing
2. Plagiarism: Types of Plagiarism
3. How to avoid Plagiarism

Teachers can use the following resource for this Unit

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/guidance/skills/plagiarism>

Tutorial

(15 hrs)

Students may be assigned tasks selected from the exercises suggested below :

1. Unit -1 Identifying specific methodologies used in certain seminal texts of Indian and /or Western Philosophy
2. Unit 2 and 3 – Students will be assigned (individually /groupwise) to write a short paper / book-review/article-review where they demonstrate practical application of the guidelines of research that they have learned in Unit 2
3. Unit 2 and 3 - Students will be assigned the task of identifying the relevant journal articles in Scopus indexed journals (under specific quartiles) with reference to a particular research topic .
4. Unit 2 and 3 - Students should demonstrate their ability to write end-notes, footnotes, and the full Bibliography - with reference to the paper or review that they are assigned to write .
5. Unit 3 – Students practice several alternative citation techniques for all possible categories of readings (viz. journal articles, books and book chapters, E resources, PhD and MPhil theses, Encyclopedia articles, etc.)

6. Unit 4 – Students are trained to identify research materials that show “Conflicts in interest”, or use objectionable reflections - that go against Publication Ethics
7. Unit 4 - Students practice how to run relevant software for checking plagiarism
8. Students will be given different plagiarized materials are asked to identify the specific category/ies of plagiarism they illustrate.
9. Students practice the technique of checking their own writings for plagiarism with relevant software, and reduce the similarity index and/or AI content within the permissible limit.

Suggestive Readings

Andow, James (2018). *What is This Thing Called Philosophical Methodology*. Routledge.

Bengson, John ; Cuneo, Terence & Shafer-Landau, Russ (2022). *Philosophical Methodology: From Data to Theory*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Edited by Terence Cuneo & Russ Shafer-Landau.

Cappelen, Herman ; Gendler, Tamar & Hawthorne, John (eds.) (2016). *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophical Methodology*. Oxford, United Kingdom: Oxford University Press.

Haug, Matthew C. (ed.) (2013). *Philosophical Methodology: The Armchair or the Laboratory?*. New York: Routledge.

Nado, Jennifer (ed.) (2016). *Advances in Experimental Philosophy & Philosophical Methodology*. New York: Bloomsbury Academic.

Overgaard, Soren & D'Oro, Giuseppina (eds.) (2017). *The Cambridge Companion to Philosophical Methodology*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

Vaidya, Anand J. (2010). Philosophical methodology: The current debate. *Philosophical Psychology* 23 (3):391-417.

Glendinning, S. (2008), What is Phenomenology?. *Philosophy Compass*, 3: 30-50.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1747-9991.2007.00113.x>

Delving into the Philosophical Method: A Critical Analysis

<https://philosophy.institute/research-methodology/philosophical-method-critical-analysis/>