

**Discipline Specific Elective Course-4 (DSE-4)**  
**Research methodology and Academic Writing**

**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 and Academic Writing	4	3	1	0	XII Passed	Nil

**Learning Objectives**

The Learning Objectives of this course are as follows:

- To introduce the learner to the basics of research process and argumentation.
- To familiarize the learner with the process and stylistics of academic writing.
- To develop in the learner an independent point of view and critical thinking.

**Learning outcomes**

The Learning Outcomes of this course are as follows:

- The learner will be able to identify research gaps and construct hypotheses and arguments.
- The learner will be able to choose, access and effectively engage with primary, secondary and tertiary sources.
- The learner will be able to write an academic paper/text.

**SYLLABUS OF DSE-4**

**UNIT – I**

**(9 hours)**

Identifying the student's area of interest, a research gap and a research problem. Training students on how to choose and narrow down a topic. Building a research hypothesis. Basic types and components of a research question.

**UNIT – II**

**(9 hours)**

Identifying and evaluating different kinds of sources like primary vs secondary vs tertiary sources, as well as journal articles, books, dissertations etc.

Identifying and choosing relevant and reliable sources for research, as well as basic knowledge on different websites, portals and journals for accessing said sources.

Constructing an annotated Bibliography.

Familiarizing students with the different kinds of research: quantitative research (eg. different literary and cultural theories in case of research in literature.

**UNIT – III (9 hours)**

Basic knowledge on what an argument and its basic components and structure are. Identifying simple and complex arguments, as well as validity and soundness of an argument. Basic knowledge of logical fallacies.

Engaging with and evaluating sources by identifying underlying arguments, their structures, validity and soundness.

**UNIT – IV (9 hours)**

Effective note-taking, and summarizing academic/scientific texts.

Constructing arguments and counter-arguments. Quoting, paraphrasing and summarizing from the source texts to construct the argument(s).

**UNIT – V (9 hours)**

Planning and structuring a draft. Familiarization with stylistic conventions, using different citation styles and making footnotes.

Familiarizing with the ethics of research and plagiarism.

Perfecting a final draft based on coherence, connection and flow in writing.

**Practical component (if any) - NIL**

**Essential/recommended readings Suggestive readings**

Learning/Teaching Material: any of the textbooks given below may be suggested.

- Brian Paltridge and Sue Starfield, Thesis and Dissertation Writing in a Second Language, Routledge, 2007.
- Umberto Eco: Cómo se hace una tesis
- Brian Paltridge et.al. Teaching Academic Writing of Michigan Press.
- Brian Paltridge and Sue Starfield Getting Published in Academic Journals, University of Michigan Press. 2016
- Cómo escribir y presentar su tesis y disertación by S. Joseph Levine, Michigan State University, English, French and Italian versions available.