

CREDIT DISTRIBUTION, ELIGIBILITY AND PRE-REQUISITES OF THE GE-11

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility criteria	Pre-requisite of the course (if any)
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
GE-11 Foundations of Inquiry in Psychology	4	3	0	1	Class XII Pass	Nil

Learning Objectives

The Learning Objectives of this course are as follows:

- To introduce students to the paradigmatic foundations of psychological inquiry
- To present the essential considerations of design, rigour and ethics of knowledge generation through psychological inquiry
- To acquaint students of the quantitative and qualitative approaches of inquiry
- To give an overview of the different methods of data generation for psychological inquiry

Learning outcomes

After doing this course, the students will be able to

- Critically analyse and compare paradigmatic frameworks and their underlying assumptions and contributions to the field of psychology
- Understand the ways in which the issues of ethics and rigour are addressed while engaging in psychological inquiries
- Appreciate the nuances of the quantitative and qualitative approaches of psychological inquiry
- Select and use the suitable methods of data generation for psychological inquiries

Unit – I : Foundational Assumptions of Psychological Inquiry (18 Hours)

- Positivist & Post-positivist, Interpretivist, and Critical Paradigm
- Quantitative & Qualitative approaches to inquiry
- Integrating paradigms to advance interdisciplinarity

UNIT – II: Fundamentals of Design in Inquiry (12 Hours)

- Types of designs in psychological inquiry-experimental, correlational, cross-sectional, longitudinal, observational
- Ethics- Balancing scientific rigour with ethical considerations, Guidelines for ethical inquiry

UNIT – III: Data Gathering Techniques (15 Hours)

- Field Experiments
- Survey
- Interview
- Case Study

- Using secondary data and documents

Suggestive Practicals

(30 hours)

- Students may be given different research works each rooted in one paradigm and may be asked to identify and illustrate the basic assumptions of these paradigms.
- Students may be asked to design a study with field experiment/interview/ case study as a method of data collection. The data obtained could be analysed using a suitable technique of data analysis.
- Students may be asked to design a survey based study which may involve designing a questionnaire, collecting and analysing the data.
- Students can design a study using secondary data sources such as archives, blogs, life-history documents, biographies, movies, documentaries, short stories, advertisements, newspaper articles, policy documents, speeches etc. They can then analyse the secondary data with a suitable method of data analysis.

Essential/recommended readings

- Bansal, P. (2019). *Psychology: Debates and Controversies*. SAGE Publications India Pvt, Limited.
- Bryman, A. (2004). *Quantity and Quality in Social Research*. London, UK: Routledge.
- Coolican, H. (2006). *Introduction to Research Methodology in Psychology*. London: Hodder Arnold
- Denzin, N. K., & Lincoln, Y. S. (2018). *The Sage Handbook of Qualitative Research*. 5th Ed. Sage.
- Gall, M., Gall, J., & Borg, R. (2007). *Educational research: An introduction* (8th ed.). New York, NY: Pearson Education
- Howitt, D., & Cramer, D. (2014). *Introduction to Research Methods in Psychology*. United Kingdom: Pearson.
- Lammers, W. J., & Badia, P. (2005). *Fundamentals of Behavioral Research*. United States of America: Thompson/Wadsworth.
- Lincoln, Y. S., Lynham, S. A., & Guba, E. G. (2011). *Paradigmatic controversies, contradictions, and emerging confluences, revisited*. *The Sage handbook of qualitative research*. 4(2), 97-128.
- Neuman, W.L. (2014). *Social Research Methods: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches*. Boston: Pearson Education.

Suggestive readings

- Pelham, B. W. (2018). *Conducting research in psychology: Measuring the weight of smoke*. 5 th Ed. Sage Publications Inc.
- Schweigert, W. A. (2020). *Research Methods in Psychology: A Handbook*. Illinois. Waveland Press, Inc.

Note: Examination scheme and mode shall be as prescribed by the Examination Branch, University of Delhi, from time to time.