

BA (H) Sociology
Discipline Specific Core (DSC) 14
Sociological Research Methods

Discipline Specific Core Course -14 (DSC-14) : Sociological Research Methods

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		
DSC 14 Sociological Research Methods	4	3	0	1	12 th Class Pass	BA (H) DSC 03: Introduction to Sociological Research or equivalent course

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. The course will enable students to learn the philosophical and methodological underpinnings of research.
2. It introduces them to various aspects of research methodology and the use of simple statistics.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students will be able to:

1. *Understand* the deeper philosophical issues that underpin research.
2. *Evaluate* the methodological validity of the claims made by theory.
3. *Assess* research works for its methodological soundness.
4. *Create* research designs for simple research projects.

SYLLABUS OF DSC 14: Sociological Research Methods

Unit 1: Ways of Looking (6 Hours)

This unit introduces students to some of the main philosophical engagements of sociological research and practice.

- a. Objectivity in Sociological Research
- b. Reflexivity
- c. Research Ethics

Unit 2: Methodological Issues (6 Hours)

This unit focuses on some epistemological issues and research practices.

- a. Comparative Method**
- b. Feminist Method**

Unit 3: Methods of Data Collection (21 hours)

This unit engages with the building blocks of research - from sampling the population to the common methods of conducting social surveys.

- a. Sampling**
- b. Questionnaire Construction**
- c. Interview**
- d. Documents**
- e. Focus Group**

Unit 4: Introduction to Statistics (12 Hours)

This unit introduces the statistical and diagrammatic organization and analysis of data.

- a. Graphical and Diagrammatic Presentation of Data**
- b. Measures of Central Tendency (Simple Arithmetic Mean, Median and Mode).**
- c. Measures of Dispersion (Standard Deviation, Variance and Covariance).**

Practical Component: NIL

Essential/Recommended Readings:

Unit 1: Ways of Looking

a. Objectivity in Sociological Research

Gray, David J. 1968. 'Value-Free Sociology: A Doctrine of Hypocrisy and Irresponsibility' in *The Sociological Quarterly*. Vol. 9, No. 2 (Spring, 1968). Pp. 176- 185.

b. Reflexivity

Gouldner, Alvin. 1970. *The Coming Crisis of Western Sociology*. New York: Basic Books. Chapter 13. Living as a Sociologist. Pp. 481-511.

c. Research Ethics

Martin, John Levi. 2017. *Thinking Through Methods: A Social Science Primer*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, Chapter 6. Ethics in Research. Pp. 142-161.

Unit 2: Methodological Issues

a. Comparative Method

Béteille A. 2002. *Sociology: Essays on Approach and Method*. New Delhi: OUP. Chapter 4. Some Observations on the Comparative Method. Pp. 72-94.

b. Feminist Method

Hammersley, Martyn. 1992. 'On Feminist Methodology' in *Sociology*, Vol. 26, No.2 (May 1992). Pp. 187-206.

Unit 3: Methods of Data Collection

a. Sampling

Bailey, K. 1994. 'Survey Sampling' in *Survey Sampling in Methods of Social Research*. 4th edition. New York: Free Press. Chapter 5. Pp. 81-104.

b. Questionnaire Construction

Bailey, K. 1994. 'Questionnaire Construction' in *Questionnaire Construction in Methods of Social Research*. 4th edition. New York: Free Press. Chapter 6. Pp. 105-146.

c. Interview

Bailey, K. 1994. 'Interview Studies' in *Methods of Social Research*. 4th edition. New York: Free Press. Chapter 8, Pp.173-213.

d. Documents

Coffey, Amanda. 'Analysing Documentary Realities', in David Silverman ed. *Qualitative Research: Theory, Method and Practice*. Delhi: SAGE Publications, 2004. Pp. 56-75.

e. Focus Group

Wilkinson, Sue. 'Focus group research' in David Silverman ed. *Qualitative Research: Theory, Method and Practice*. Delhi: SAGE Publications, 2004. Pp. 177-196.

Unit 4: Introduction to Statistics (To be taught through Practical Classes)

a. Graphical and Diagrammatic presentation of data

Gupta, S. P. 2007. 'Diagrammatic and Graphic Presentation' in *Elementary Statistical Methods*. Sultan Chand & Sons. Chapter 6, Pp.101-108, 115-118, 131-137.

b. Measures of Central Tendency

Gupta, S. P. 2007. 'Measures of Central Value' in *Elementary Statistical Methods*. Sultan Chand & Sons. Chap 7, Pp. 155-168, 173-180, 187-197.

c. Measures of Dispersion

Gupta, S. P. 2007. 'Measures of Variation' in *Elementary Statistical Methods*. Sultan Chand & Sons. Chapter 8 pp. 262-277.

SUGGESTED READINGS:

Radcliffe-Brown, A.R. 1958. *Methods in Social Anthropology*. Delhi: Asia Publishing Corporation. Chapter 5. Pp. 91-108

Durkheim, E. 1958, *The Rules of Sociological Method*. New York: The Free Press, Chapter 1 and 2. Pp. 1-46

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