

**B.A. (H) Sociology
Discipline Specific Core 03
Introduction to Sociological Research**

Course Objectives:

The course is designed as a foundational introduction to sociological research. It will provide the student with an understanding of how the social sciences, mainly sociology and social anthropology comprehend the world. It will begin with basic explanation of the research process and move on to the components of research and enable students to learn best practices.

Course Learning Outcomes:

1. Students are introduced to sociological research both from a theoretical and methodological perspective.
2. The course enables students to read and critically evaluate a piece of research and move towards designing a simple research project.
3. Students would be able to identify the difference between quantitative and qualitative methods.
4. Students will learn about ethical and practical issues in research.
5. Students learn that research methods are universal and not bound by cultural location and that no one research method can adequately explain the world around them.

Course Outline:

Unit 1. The Promise of Sociological Research

Unit 2. The link Between Theory and Research

Unit 3. Concepts and Hypothesis

Unit 4. The Process of Social Research

Unit 5. Plagiarism and Ethics in Social Research

Unit 6. Primary and Secondary Sources of Data

6.1 Types of primary data: Qualitative and Quantitative Data

6.2 Introduction to Big Data at National Level: Census and NSS data

6.3 Introduction to Digital Research

Unit 7. Basic Data Analysis

Course Content:

Unit 1. The Promise of Sociological Research (Week 1)

Mills, C. W. (1959). *The Sociological Imagination*, London: OUP, Chapter 1 Pp. 3-24.

Unit 2. The link between Theory and Research (Weeks 2 & 3)

Merton, R.K. (1972). *Social Theory and Social Structure*, Delhi: Arvind Publishing House, Chapters 4 & 5 The Bearing of Sociological Theory on Empirical Research & The Bearing of Empirical Research on Sociological Theory. Pp. 139-171.

Unit 3. Concepts and Hypothesis (Weeks 4 & 5)

Goode, W. E. and P. K. Hatt, (1952). *Methods in Social Research*. New York: McGraw Hill. Chapters 5 and 6, Pp. 41-73.

Unit 4. The Process of Social Research (Weeks 6-8)

Bailey, K. (1994). 'The Research Process', in *Methods of Social Research*. Simon and Schuster, 4th ed. The Free Press, New York, Pp. 3-19.

Bernard, Russell H., (2006). *Research Methods in Anthropology: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches*, Alta Mira Press, Lanham, Ch.3 'Preparing for Research'; Ch.4 'The Literature Search' Pp. 69-108.

Unit 5. Plagiarism & Ethics in Social Research (Weeks 9)

Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK and Commonwealth, *Ethical Guidelines for Good Research Practice*, Pp.1-10. <http://www.theasa.org/>

Creswell, J W. (2009). *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches*, 3rd ed. Sage Publications, California, Pp. 87-93.

Unit 6. Primary and Secondary Sources of Data (Weeks 10-14)

Walliman, Nicholas. (2010). *Research Methods: The Basics*. Routledge: London, Ch. 4 'The Nature of Data', Pp. 65-77.

6.1 Types of primary data: Qualitative and Quantitative Data

Kim, Yeunchul, 2019, 'New Opportunities for Sociological Research', in *Journal of Asian Sociology*, Vol. 48, No.3 9, Pp. 343-358.

6.2 Introduction to Census and NSS data

History of the Census of India, Government of India Pp.1-10. Drop-in-Article No. 5 : Census of India 2011 .

Deshpande, S. (2003). *Contemporary India: A Sociological View*. New Delhi: Penguin Books, Pp.125-150.

6.3. Introduction to Digital Research

Pink, S., H. Horst, J. Postill, L. Hjorth, T. Lewis, & J. Tacchi, (2016). *Digital Ethnography: Principles and Practice*. SAGE Publications Ltd. Pp. 1-18.

Unit 7. Basic Data Analysis (Weeks 15-16)

Gupta, S. P. (2007). *Elementary Statistical Methods*. Sultan Chand & Sons Publishers, Chapter 7. Classification and Tabulation. Pp.65-100.

Teaching Learning Process:

1. Classroom Lectures
2. Oral presentations
3. Analyzing data
4. Interactive classroom sessions
5. Digital research
6. Ethnographic fieldwork

Assessment Methods:

Assessment for this course will be based on Written Assignments, Research Projects, and Group/ Individual Project Presentations.

Keywords:

Research, Theory, Methods, Techniques, Quantitative, Qualitative, Empirical, Concepts, Hypothesis, Tables, Digital Research, Census, Data.