

GOVERNMENT DEGREE COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), BARAMULLA

Semester 8TH

Major Course

Subject: Sociology

Title: Research Methodology (II)

Course code: SOCC1822M

Credits (4+2): Theory 04, Tutorial -02)

Contact hours: 60 (T) + 30 (T)

This course offers an advanced exploration of the principles, philosophies, and practices of social science research. It deepens students' understanding of the theoretical foundations, methodological choices, and analytical techniques used in contemporary sociology. Emphasis is placed on integrating quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods approaches, ensuring students can design and execute research projects independently. Through enhanced tutorials, students will gain practical competence in software-based data analysis, proposal writing, and ethical research practices.

Objectives

- Develop an in-depth understanding of the philosophical foundations of social research, including ontology, epistemology, and key theoretical paradigms.
- Strengthen practical skills in data collection, management, and analysis using advanced tools such as SPSS/R, NVivo, and online survey platforms.
- Familiarize students with recent trends, innovations, and debates in social science research.

Learning Outcomes

- Explain the influence of philosophical paradigms on research design.
- Integrate multiple methods to address complex sociological questions.
- Use digital tools and software to conduct and present research findings effectively.
- Develop well-structured and ethically sound research proposals and reports.

Course Content

Unit 1 – Philosophical Foundations

- Philosophy of Science
- Conceptualizing social reality : Ontology, epistemology
- Objectivity and Reflexivity in social research

Unit 2 Theory, Facts, and Practice in Research

- Nature of scientific theory in social sciences
- Interrelationship between theory, facts and practice

GOVERNMENT DEGREE COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), BARAMULLA

- Role of research in theory building and theory testing

Unit 3. Data Analysis and Report Writing

- Logic and use of statistics
- Data analysis and interpretation
- Structure of a research report: introduction, methodology, findings, analysis, conclusion

Unit 4 – Recent Trends and Advanced Methodologies

- Grounded Theory and Thematic Analysis
- Participatory Action Research (PAR)
- Online Research

Tutorials: 2 credits

Tutorial 1

- Paradigm Debate Workshop: Group discussions and presentations on contrasting philosophical paradigms.
- Research Design Lab: Students create mini research designs for given topics, highlighting method and justification.

Tutorial 2

- Data Analysis Practicum: Hands-on training in SPSS for quantitative data and NVivo for qualitative data.
- Citation and referencing systems (APA, MLA, Chicago),

Avoidance of plagiarism and ethical considerations in emerging research contexts

Essential Readings

- Bryman, A. (2016). Social Research Methods (5th ed.). Oxford University Press.
- Neuman, W. L. (2014). Social Research Methods: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches (7th Ed.). Pearson.
- Babbie, E. (2015). The Practice of Social Research (14th ed.). Cengage Learning.
- Crotty, M. (1998). The Foundations of Social Research. Sage.

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- Guba, E. G., & Lincoln, Y. S. (1994). "Competing Paradigms in Qualitative Research." In *Handbook of Qualitative Research*. Sage.

- Charmaz, K. (2014). *Constructing Grounded Theory* (2nd ed.). Sage.

- Creswell, J. W., & Plano Clark, V. L. (2018). *Designing and Conducting Mixed Methods Research* (3rd ed.). Sage.

- Silverman, D. (2021). *Doing Qualitative Research* (6th ed.). Sage.

- Pallant, J. (2020). *SPSS Survival Manual* (7th ed.). Open University Press.

- Patton, M. Q. (2014). *Qualitative Research & Evaluation Methods* (4th ed.). Sa

Krueger, R. A., & Casey, M. A. (2015). *Focus Groups: A Practical Guide for Applied Research* (5th ed.). Sage.

– Useful for understanding focus group methodology.

Bauer, M. W. (2000). "Classical Content Analysis: A Review" in *Qualitative Researching with Text, Image and Sound*, edited by Bauer & Gaskell. Sage.

– Foundational reading on content analysis

Tashakkori, A., & Teddlie, C. (2010). *Sage Handbook of Mixed Methods in Social & Behavioral Research* (2nd ed.). Sage.

– Expansive and detailed reference on mixed methods logic and design.

Charmaz, K. (2014). *Constructing Grounded Theory* (2nd ed.). Sage.

– Influential text on grounded theory as both a qualitative and mixed method.

Silverman, D. (2021). *Doing Qualitative Research* (6th ed.). Sage

Patton, M. Q. (2014). *Qualitative Research & Evaluation Methods* (4th ed.). Sage.

Booth, W. C., Colomb, G. G., & Williams, J. M. (2016). *The Craft of Research* (4th ed.). University of Chicago Press.