

Ambedkar University Delhi

Course Outline

Winter Semester (January - May 2018)

School: School of Human Studies (SHS)

Programme with title: MA Gender Studies

Semester to which offered: (II/ IV/ VI): II (Second Semester)

Course Title: Introduction to Research Methods (IRM)

Credits: 2 (Two)

Course Code (new): SHS202821

Course Code (old):

Type of Course: Core

For SUS only (Mark an X for as many as appropriate):

1. Foundation (Compulsory)
2. Foundation (Elective)
3. Discipline (Compulsory) X
4. Discipline (Elective) X
5. Elective

Course Coordinator and Team:

Email of course coordinator:

Pre-requisites:

Aim:

The aim of this course is to introduce students to the fundamentals of research in the social sciences and humanities. This requires a multi-layered approach beginning with engaging students with the idea of research, the conventional research paradigm developed within positivism, the critique of the conventional perspective from a range of positions particularly feminist epistemology. This would serve as an introduction to the concept of research.

Brief description of modules/ Main modules:

Module 1: Thinking about Research

- Harding, Sandra. 1987. "Introduction: Is There a Feminist Method?" In, *Feminism and Methodology* (pp. 1-14). Bloomington: Indiana University Press. Pp. 1-3.
- Prabha Kotiswaran, "Dangerous Sex, Invisible Labor: An Introduction," *Dangerous Sex, Invisible Labor: Sex Work and the Law in India* (New Delhi: OUP, 2012).
- Shahid Amin, "prologue and epilogue", in *Event, Metaphor, Memory: Chauri Chaura 1922-1992* (New Delhi: Oxford University Press. 1995).
- Ranjana Padhi, "Introduction," *Those Who Did Not Die: Impact of the Agrarian Crisis on Women in Punjab* (New Delhi: Sage, 2012).

Module 2: Meanings and Aspects of Methodology

- Emile Durkheim, "What is a Social Fact?", in Steven Lukes, trans. *The Rules of the Sociological Method* (New York: Free Press, 1982).
- Karl Marx, "The Method of Political Economy", *Grundrisse: Foundations of the Critique of Political Economy*.
- Max Weber, "The Meaning of 'Ethical Neutrality' in Sociology and Economics," in *Methodology of the Social Sciences*.
- Dorothy E. Smith, "A peculiar Eclipsing: Women's Exclusion from Man's Culture" in *The everyday world as problematic: A feminist Sociology*. Boston: Northeastern University (1987). Pp. 17-43.

Module 3: An Introduction to Epistemology

- Claude Levi-Strauss, *Tristes Tropiques* (selections)
- Gopal Guru, "How Egalitarian are the Social Sciences in India?, in Economic and political weekly. Vol. 37, No. 50 (2002). Pp. 5003-5009.
- Mahasweta Devi, "Witch-Hunting in West Bengal: In Whose Interest?" in *Dust on the Road* (Calcutta: Seagull, 2010).
- Emily Martin, *The Egg and the Sperm*

Module 4: Data and Basic Processes of data collection

- Ann Oakley, "Interviewing women: A contradiction in terms," in Helen Roberts ed., *Doing Feminist Research* (London: Routledge, 1981).
- Renato Rosaldo, "From the door of His Tent: The Fieldworker and the Inquisitor". Pp. 77-97.
- Palriwala, Rajni. 2005. "Fieldwork in a Post-Colonial Anthropology: Experience and the Comparative." In *Social Anthropology. European Association of Social Anthropology*.

13, 2. Pp. 151-170.

Module 5: Quantitative Research: Basic Statistical Tools and Concepts

- Sachar Committee Report (selections) 2003.
- Charles R. Hale, “What is activist research?”, *SSRC* Vol. 1, Nos. 1- 2.
- Pierre Bourdieu, selections from *Distinction: A social Critique of the Judgment of Taste*. Pp. 13-96.
- Documentary on PRA and RRA
- Ken Plummer, On the diversity of Life Documents

Module 6: Designing a Research Project

- Develop your own research project, with individual discussions with the instructor.

Students will be expected to identify an area of interest by second week into the course, develop a set of research questions and construct an annotated bibliography to be submitted by Wednesday, 10th February 2018. This can then be developed keeping in mind the later research question for dissertation and submit it as a final term paper by 15th April, 2018.

Tentative Assessment schedule with details of weightage:

S.No	Assessment	Date/period in which Assessment will take place	Weightage
1	Class attendance and participation	January to April, 2017	20%
2	1 st Test	10 February, 2018	40%
3	2 nd Test	15 April, 2018	40%
4			