

Outlines

DVST-912 Research Design and Methodological Approaches in Development Research

Introduction to the Course

This course is designed to provide doctoral students with a comprehensive understanding of advanced research design and methodology within the context of Development Studies, while also offering valuable insights applicable to a broad spectrum of Social Sciences. The course emphasizes the theoretical underpinnings and practical applications of various research designs, methods, and analytical techniques, equipping students with the necessary skills to conduct rigorous and innovative research. The course offers opportunities for interdisciplinary research, fostering integration of qualitative and quantitative approaches for a more comprehensive understanding of social phenomena. The course thus provides a platform for students' lifelong learning through hands-on training in planning and conducting research projects.

Learning Objectives

After completing the course, students should be able to:

- understand the suitability of various research approaches and techniques to specific research questions.
- critically evaluate existing research, design their studies independently, and apply research methods to real-world problems.
- understand and meet the ethical standards for conducting research with humans.
- report findings in a concise and informative manner and make pertinent recommendations.
- contribute to the advancement of knowledge within the realm of Social Sciences and specifically in Development Studies.

Prerequisite: Students should have basic knowledge of social science research, have research-based MS degree by producing MS thesis.

Reference Books

Crano, W. D., Brewer, M. B., & Lac, A. (2024). Principles and Methods of Social Research. Routledge, New York.

Moosa, I. A. (2024). Publish or Perish: Perceived Benefits Versus Unintended Consequences (2nd Edition.). Edward Elgar Publishing. Cheltenham U.K.

Parrott, B. (2023). Becoming a Social Science Researcher: Quest and Context. University of Michigan Press.

Creswell, J. W., & Creswell, J. D. (2023). Research Design: qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches. Sage publications.

Lai, B. (2023). The Grant Writing Guide: A Road Map for Scholars. Princeton University Press.

Churchill, S. D. (2022). Essentials of Existential Phenomenological Research. American Psychological Association. Washington DC.

Sumner, A. and Tribe, M. (2008). International Development Studies: Theories and Methods in Research and Practice. Sage London.

Lesson Plan

Week	Lecture Topic	Content Learning Outcomes (CLOs)
1	<p>Pursuit of Ethical Excellence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The many uses of research and their value • Risk of harm to research subjects • Privacy and confidentiality • Informed consent • Ethical review • Research misconduct • Publication ethics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stimulate critical ethical thinking regarding various aspects of research in social sciences. • Make students well-equipped to conduct their research in accordance with current ethics regulations and guidelines on research involving humans, and in accordance with good research practice.
2	<p>Philosophy of Social Sciences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Paradigm: Understanding Ontology, Epistemology & Methodology • Explanation and Understanding • Reductionism and Holism • Interdisciplinarity • Critique of Traditional Social Science 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate knowledge and overview of various influential schools in the philosophy of social sciences. • Critically consider a range of contributions in the philosophy of science for the social sciences and their impact on diverse social science disciplines.
3	<p>Structuring of Inquiry in Social Sciences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulating research question(s) • Developing research hypothesis • Constructing theoretical framework • Methodological alternatives • Application of research techniques • Assessing the validity and reliability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grasp sequential steps involved in conducting meaningful research in social sciences. • Have a command of basic research models and approaches of social science and the ability to apply them in academic research and project design.
4	<p>Foundations of Development Studies Research</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce various research models, approaches, and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature and characteristics of development research • Evidence-based decision making • Critical perspectives in the development process • Research design in development research • Advanced methodological tools • Evaluation of development policy and professional practice 	<p>intellectual traditions in the field of development studies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having the ability to compare, contrast, and analyze societal and development systems with an interdisciplinary approach.
5	<p>Conducting Field Research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The logic of field research • Ethnography • Observation • Interviewing and Focus Group • Relations in the field • Ethical dilemmas of field research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to the progress of the field of development studies by conducting original and independent studies that produce original thoughts, methods, models, and applications to the field and/or utilize existing ideas, methods, models, and applications in another field of study.
6	<p>Case Study and the Comparative Method</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case conceptualization • The types of case studies • Breaking down the quantitative/qualitative divide • Cross-comparative studies • Visual represent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diverse applications of case studies and the comparative method in research. • Having a command of qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis methods and abiding by the highest levels of academic and research ethics.
7	<p>Analytical Strategies for Qualitative Data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thematic analysis • The Grounded Theory approach • Discourse analysis • Interpretative phenomenological analysis • Software for qualitative data analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Familiarize students with descriptive and field-based interpretative methods of analysis including the analysis of verbal data, case study, and ethnographic inquiry. • Through theoretical discussions, practical examples, and hands-on activities, students will develop the analytical skills necessary to conduct insightful qualitative research.
8	<p>Secondary Data and Analysis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategies for gathering evidence • Textual analysis • Documents and communication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reveal new insights or patterns in existing data. • Build a stronger evidence base for existing theories or

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> artifacts Interpreting and coding material Open Vs. Focused Coding Transcribing interviews 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> hypotheses. Demonstrate skills in using online databases and software.
9	Mid Semester Exam (MSE) Week	
10	Fundamentals of Survey Research <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Randomization and sampling Designing surveys Survey instrument development Systematic biases Pretesting and piloting Survey execution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enable obtaining information describing characteristics of a large sample of individuals of interest. Allows for a variety of methods to recruit participants, collect data, and utilize various methods of instrumentation.
11	Statistical Analysis of Quantitative Data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dealing with data Model construction Descriptive and Inferential statistics Using SPSS, STATA, and R for data analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop current and advanced levels of data into original thought and research as a specialist. Develop a solid foundation in statistical analysis, enable critical evaluation of data, identify patterns and trends,.
12	Participatory Action Research <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation and collaboration Action-oriented approach Cyclical process Participatory analysis and interpretation Documentation and knowledge sharing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emphasize the importance of equitable and inclusive research practices and generate knowledge to inform responsive action. Gain theoretical knowledge as well as practical skills for conducting impactful research in collaboration with diverse stakeholders.
13	Getting Started: Task-based exercise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify gaps in existing research Crafting a research proposal by designing empirical research Protocol development Procedures for the recruitment of the participants Potential risks and benefits Appropriate techniques in data analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn comprehensive approach that combines theoretical knowledge with practical skills. Apply skills in conducting empirical research by utilizing qualitative and quantitative research methods.
14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentations (oral communication and visual aids) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide opportunities for students to present their

		research findings
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations (oral communication and visual aids) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide opportunities for students to present their research findings
16	<p>Writing a Dissertation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical elements of dissertation • Creative approaches to scholarly writeup • Formatting and structuring • Supervisor's role and feedback • Defense seminars and evaluation process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop critical thinking skills, ability to conduct independent research, proficiency in academic writing and argumentation. • Enhance communication skills, fostering interdisciplinary thinking, creativity innovation in research design and presentation.
17	<p>Publication Process in Academic Research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pitfalls in research • Understanding academic journals • Manuscript preparation • Peer review process and feedback • Copyright and Intellectual Property • Publication ethics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to the progress of the field of development studies by publishing at least one academic article at a refereed journal and/or by producing or interpreting an original contribution.
18	End Semester Exam (ESE) Week	