

Course Title: Social Research: Methodologies, Ethics, and Design

Course Code: DVST-802

Credit Hours: 2-1

Pre-requisite Courses: Students must be physically fit enough to conduct primary social research in the field.

1. Course Description:

This course provides students from a variety of disciplinary and research backgrounds with the core research methods knowledge and skills required for work in the development sector. It will begin by introducing students to the theoretical and ethical considerations underpinning social research, before adding to their existing knowledge of research methods through review of further instruction in qualitative and quantitative methodologies. Methods such as interviews, surveys, ethnography, document research, and statistical analysis will each be taught from a development studies perspective. Students of this course will apply lessons on the design, execution, and analysis of research in a capstone fieldwork project conducted during a research trip to an established development project.

2. Course Objectives:

- a. To equip students with the key skills and knowledge required for conducting and understanding research as social scientists.
- b. To supplement students' existing knowledge of basic research methods with more advanced, and development oriented instruction.
- c. To encourage students to employ research methods and principles in a variety of social settings: the field, the classroom, and the conference room.

3. Course Outcomes:

At the end of this course students should be able to,

- a. understand and mobilize the epistemological foundations and ethics of social research;
- b. define a research problem, develop a research question, and design and implement an appropriate research project in order to answer this question;
- c. interpret and analyze both quantitative and qualitative data.

Course Contents:

4. This course will begin with review of the ethical and philosophical foundations of social research, before advancing students' existing knowledge in qualitative and quantitative methodologies and methods.

Lab work:

5. Students of this course will design and conduct a small, independent research project as part of a one-week research trip to a relevant field study site.

Textbooks or Reference Books:

6. Bryman, A. (2008) *Social Research Methods* (3rdedn). Oxford: Oxford University Press.
 Laws, S., C. Harper and R. Marcus (2003) *Research for Development: A Practical Guide*. London: Sage in co-operation with Save the Children.
 Mikkelsen, B.H. (2005) *Methods for Development Work and Research: A New Guide for Practitioners*. (2nd Edition). Thousand Oaks, London: Sage.
 Morgan, D.L. (2014) *Integrating Qualitative and Quantitative Methods: A Pragmatic Approach*. Thousand Oaks; London: Sage.
 O'Leary, Z. (2014) *The Essential Guide to Doing Your Research Project* (2nd edition). London: Sage.