

## (GPP 802) Research Methods in Public Policy

**Pre-Requisites:** None

**Course Description:** This is an advanced level course that seeks to teach students about principles of research and different perspectives on how to apply such principles to the field of public policy. It prepares students to conduct evidence-based research by learning about issues involved in the use of theory, method, analysis, data collection and interpretation.

### **Learning Objectives**

- Enable students to understand the logic of inquiry
- Enable students to have a broad understanding of how scientific study of social phenomena is different from that of the natural world.
- Create awareness about the process of social science research
- Enhance understanding of issues involved in research design.

### **Learning Outcomes**

- Students should be able to select their research topics
- Students should be able to devise their research designs
- Students should have a sharp understanding of inductive and deductive approaches, level of analysis issues involved and use of different techniques to conduct their research
- Students should be able to conduct quality research on public policy issues facing Pakistan.
- Students should produce a detailed research proposal for their MS thesis by the end of the course.

### **Course Content**

Why the issue of Method is critically important? Challenges faced in researching issues involved in Public policy; Learning about the research process- linear and non-linear approaches. How to construct a research design? What are data gathering methods

and their critical evaluation; Issue of theory and data interpretation; case study method; issues and challenge of doing research in Pakistan; the expanding domain of public policy research; Use of resources – electronic data bases and their optimum use.

### **Textbooks**

1. Sarantakos, S. (3rd Edition 2005), Social Research (New York: Palgrave Macmillan).
2. McGraw, Dickinson and George Watson, (1976) Political and Social Inquiry (New York: John Wiley).
3. King Gary and others. (1994) Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research (New Jersey: Princeton).
4. Garner, Mark and others, Eds (2009). Teaching Research Methods in the Social Science (Burlington: Ashgate)
5. Walliman, Nicholas (2006), Social Research Methods (London: Sage Publications).
6. Turabian, Kate, L. (7th edition, 2007), A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations (Chicago, London: University of Chicago).