

(GPA-204) Research Methods and Techniques

Pre-Requisites: None

Learning Objectives: The course is aimed at explaining the purpose of proper and rigorous scientific research, identifying key elements of scientific thinking, understanding the research methodologies, process and research proposal and paper writing.

Learning Outcomes:

After completing the course, students should be able to:

- Apply the concepts of basics research methods and major stages required for the research process
- identify, evaluate and use different sources for research
- Formulate Research questions and hypotheses
- develop a formal research proposal
- write an issue-centered literature review
- apply research methodologies in some neighboring academic fields
- apply the process of research and its 'mechanics'

Course Contents:

- Research method, methodology and Philosophy of Science
- Contending Schools about doing research
- Concepts and Variables
- Operationalization
- Hypothesis Testing
- Tools for generating evidence
- Analysis and interpretation
- Writing of Research Report

Text Books and Software:

1. Kenneth Hoover, The Elements of Social Scientific Thinking (New York: St Martin Press, 2001).
2. Kaifeng Yang and Gerald Miller, eds. Handbook of Research Methods in Public Administration (New York: Taylor and Francis, 2008).

3. Lisa A. Baglione, *Writing a Research Paper in Political Science: A Practical Guide to Inquiry, Structure, and Methods* (Belmont: Thomson Higher Education, 2007)