

UNIVERSITY OF CALICUT
PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND SYLLABUS
Ph.D. IN SOCIOLOGY 2026 ADMISSION ONWARDS

Ph.D. IN SOCIOLOGY
COURSE WORK FOR Ph.D. PROGRAMME IN SOCIOLOGY

Paper Name	Paper – I - Research Methodology
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SCHEME OF COURSE WORK

Title of the Paper	Credit Value	Marks			Total
		Internal	End Semester	Viva	
Paper –I -Research Methodology	4	20	70	10	100
Paper – II - Elective	4	20	70	10	100
Paper – III - Research and Publication Ethics	2	20	70	10	100

Course Code	
Subject Credit	4
Summary And Overview	The syllabus in Research Methodology is designed to equip scholars with the theoretical foundations, methodological skills, and ethical orientation required to conduct rigorous and meaningful social research. The course integrates philosophical reflection, methodological training, and practical research application. The syllabus is well-structured and it ensures that scholars move beyond mere data collection to a deeper understanding of social realities. It balances philosophical grounding, methodological rigor, and practical research competence, preparing students for doctoral research and professional academic engagement.
Objectives	1. Provide a strong philosophical foundation for social science research. 2. Develop critical understanding of ontological and epistemological debates. 3. Equip scholars with conceptual clarity on theory, hypothesis, causation, and research design.

	4. Train scholars in quantitative, qualitative, and mixed research methodologies. 5. Develop competence in research ethics, academic writing, and publication practices. 6. Enable scholars to design independent, original, and ethically sound doctoral research. 7. Acquire the skill to write academic publications
Course Outcome	Upon successful completion of the course, the research scholar will be able to: 1. Critically examine philosophical foundations and paradigms underlying social research. 2. Differentiate and apply appropriate research designs and methodological approaches. 3. Formulate research problems, hypotheses, and theoretical frameworks with conceptual clarity. 4. Design and execute quantitative, qualitative, or mixed-method research strategies. 5. Apply appropriate tools of data collection and analysis, including statistical and qualitative software. 6. Demonstrate adherence to research ethics, academic integrity, and publication standards. 7. Prepare research proposals and scholarly reports suitable for doctoral-level work and publication.
Approach To Learning	The course in Research Methodology adopts a research-intensive, scholar-centered, and practice-oriented approach designed to cultivate independent, critical, and original sociological inquiry. The approach combines strong theoretical understanding, careful and systematic research methods, and professional academic skills.
Assessment Strategy	Examination and evaluation will be done

MODULE	TOPICS
I	Philosophical Anchors of Social Inquiry Nature and Logic of Social Inquiry- Debates on scientific inquiry - Inductive, deductive and abductive reasoning, Normative and empirical traditions, Objectivity, Subjectivity and value neutrality

	Ontological and Epistemological Foundations- Ontology: Objectivism, Constructivism, Realism, Epistemology: Positivism and Post-positivism, Interpretivism and Hermeneutics Major Philosophical Traditions Influencing Social Research- Empiricism and Rationalism, Phenomenology, Pragmatism, Structuralism and Post-structuralism, Postmodernism. Paradigms and Reflexivity in Social Research- Thomas Kuhn and paradigm shifts, Quantitative–qualitative debate, Methodological pluralism, Feminist epistemology and Standpoint theory, Researcher positionality and reflexivity
II	The Architecture of Social Research Foundations of Social Research -Meaning, Nature and Scope of Social Research, Objectives of Research, Scientific Method, Research Methods and Research Methodology, Problems Encountered by Researchers in India Core Concepts and Theoretical Linkages-Theory and Research: Interrelationship, Concepts, Variables-Operationalization and Measurement, Hypothesis: Meaning, Types and Formulation Types and Approaches of Research-Pure and Applied Research, Quantitative and Qualitative Research, Exploratory, Descriptive and Analytical Research, Experimental and Non-Experimental Research, Cross-Sectional and Longitudinal Research, Inductive and Deductive Approaches Research Process -Identification and Formulation of Research Problem, Review of Literature, Research Design and its Types, Sampling: Concepts and Techniques, Methods of Data Collection, Data Analysis and Interpretation, Report Writing
III	Strategies, Frameworks, and Research Praxis Research Design and Strategic Approaches- Meaning and components of research design, Quantitative, Qualitative, and Mixed Methods designs, Exploratory, Descriptive, Explanatory, Experimental, and Longitudinal designs, Cross-sectional vs. Panel studies, Case Study, Ethnography, Grounded Theory, Narrative and Phenomenological approaches, Validity, Reliability, Generalizability, and Reflexivity. Theoretical and Analytical Frameworks- Conceptual Framework vs. Theoretical Framework, Role of theory in research design, Interdisciplinary and Critical Frameworks (Feminist, Marxist, Postcolonial, Subaltern, Intersectionality) Methods of Data Collection and Analysis- Sampling techniques: Probability and Non-probability- Tools of data collection: Surveys, Interviews, Schedules, Observation, FGD, Case studies, Secondary data sources and archival research, Quantitative data analysis: Descriptive and Inferential statistics, Qualitative data analysis: Coding, Thematic analysis, Discourse analysis,

	Content analysis, Use of software (SPSS/R/NVivo/Atlas.ti), Triangulation and Mixed-method integration. Research Praxis, Ethics, and Dissemination- Research ethics: Consent, Confidentiality, Anonymity, Fieldwork dynamics and researcher positionality, Writing research proposals and grant applications, Report writing, Thesis structure, Referencing styles, Publication ethics and plagiarism, Policy engagement and translation of research into practice, Knowledge dissemination: Journals, Conferences, Community outreach.
IV	Quantitative, Qualitative, and Digital Analytics Quantitative Data Analysis- Sources of Quantitative Data, Sampling Techniques, Survey Design Descriptive and Inferential Statistics, Tests of Association and Difference Regression and Multivariate Analysis, Quantitative Analysis Using Software Qualitative Research Methods: Interview-Structured interview, semi-structured interview, unstructured interview, individual interview, in depth interview -Observation: direct observation, indirect observation, participant observation, field observation-Focus Groups-Content analysis-life histories-narrative inquiry-projective tests-dairy method-role play simulation-case study-document studies-key informants. Data Analysis Techniques- Thematic analysis, Content analysis, Discourse analysis, Narrative analysis, Coding, Reflexivity in research Validity and Trustworthiness, Credibility, Dependability Software for Qualitative Research Mixed Methods Research- Integrating qualitative and quantitative findings Digital Analytics- Digital Research Methods- Online Data Collection Techniques, Social Media Research, Web-Based Data Collection, Text and Content Analysis, Social Network Analysis Ethical Issues in Digital Research
V	Academic Writing, Publication, and Knowledge Dissemination Writing research proposals- Literature review strategies, Systematic review and meta-analysis, Grant Writing and Research Proposals, Referencing styles Writing for Publication - Journal Articles, Publishing in peer-reviewed journals, Avoiding plagiarism Thesis Writing and Academic Communication Digital Knowledge Dissemination- Academic blogs, ResearchGate and Google Scholar profiles, ORCID registration, Social media for academics

REFERENCES

ESSENTIAL READINGS

Aiyappan, A. (1965). *Social revolution in a Kerala village: A study in culture change*. Bombay: Asia Publishing House.

Babbie, E. (2020). *The practice of social research* (15th ed.). Cengage Learning.

Berger, P. L., & Luckmann, T. (1966). *The social construction of reality: A treatise in the sociology of knowledge*. Anchor Books.

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Fielding, Lee & Blank - *The SAGE Handbook of Digital Research Methods* –SAGE Publications Ltd, 2008, ISBN (first edition): 978-0857020055

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Howard Lune & Bruce L. Berg *Qualitative Research Methods for the Social Sciences*, 9th Edition Pearson Education (Boston/London) 2016/2017 (9th ed.) ISBN-13: 978-0-13-420213-6

Kothari, C. R., & Garg, G. (2019). *Research methodology: Methods and techniques* (4th ed.). New Age International.

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ADDITIONAL READINGS

Booth, W. C., Colomb, G. G., Williams, J. M., Bizup, J., & FitzGerald, W. T. (2016). *The craft of research* (4th ed.). University of Chicago Press.

Bourdieu, P. (1990). *The logic of practice*. Stanford University Press.

Charmaz, K. (2014). *Constructing grounded theory* (2nd ed.). Sage Publications.

Collins, P. H. (2000). *Black feminist thought: Knowledge, consciousness, and the politics of empowerment* (2nd ed.). Routledge.

Field, A. (2018). *Discovering statistics using IBM SPSS statistics* (5th ed.). Sage Publications.

Foucault, M. (1980). *Power/knowledge: Selected interviews and other writings, 1972–1977*. Pantheon Books.

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Paper II – Special Elective

The syllabus of this course is specific to the subject of the study and shall be prepared by the respective supervisor.

Paper III - Research and Publication Ethics

The syllabus and question paper for the course- Research and Publication Ethics is common for all the departments.

MODEL QUESTION PAPER
Ph.D PRELIMINARY QUALIFYING EXAMINATION
SOCIOLOGY

Paper-1- Research Methodology

Time: 3 Hours

Maximum Marks: 70

SECTION-A

I. Answer any TWO questions. Each questions carries 15 marks

1. Critically examine the debates on scientific inquiry in social research with reference to inductive, deductive, and abductive reasoning.
2. Explain the stages of the research process from problem identification to report writing.
3. Explain probability and non-probability sampling techniques and discuss tools of data collection in social research.
4. Discuss strategies for writing research proposals, literature reviews, and systematic reviews.

(2x15=30 marks)

SECTION-B

II. Answer any FIVE questions. Each question carries 8 marks

5. Differentiate between normative and empirical traditions in social inquiry.
6. Discuss problems encountered by researchers in India.
7. Analyse Feminist and Marxist frameworks in research.
8. Elucidate Thomas Kuhn's concept of paradigm and paradigm shift.
9. Discuss digital research methods and ethical issues in digital data collection.
10. Describe thematic analysis and coding in qualitative research.
11. Enumerate the structure of a Ph.D. thesis and referencing styles.
12. Explain digital knowledge dissemination tools such as ORCID, ResearchGate and academic blogs.

(5x8=40 marks)