

PSY390 Research Methods

Level: 3

Credit Units: 5 Credit Units

Language: ENGLISH

Presentation Pattern: EVERY SEMESTER

Synopsis:

The scientific development of the social sciences is informed by various research methodologies and methods. Having a systematic and rigorous research design forms the foundation for scientific inquiry, investigation, examination and exploration. This course explores a range of research approaches commonly used in social science studies, including sociology, psychology and communication research. The course emphasises the importance of understanding, interpreting, conceptualising and applying various research methodologies and methods. Students will acquire the practical skills needed to design and carry out scientific investigations.

Topics:

- Introduction to social science research
- Varieties of research approaches
- Theories and paradigms
- Ethics in social research
- Conducting literature reviews
- Research purpose statements, hypothesis, and research questions
- Designing a research study
- Use of quantitative and qualitative research instruments
- Participant recruitment and sampling strategies
- Quantitative research designs
- Qualitative research designs
- Mixed-Methods research designs

Textbooks:

Leavy, P.: Research Design: Quantitative, Qualitative, Mixed Methods, Arts-Based, and Community-Based Participatory Research Approaches. (2017). The Guildford Press.
ISBN-13: 9781462514380

Learning Outcome:

- Demonstrate how various research concepts such as research designs, data collection, data analysis, validity, reliability, criteria, and research quality can influence the research process, research findings and their interpretation.
- Evaluate and appreciate the different research designs, strategies, methodologies and methods.
- Examine the various key considerations of the research process, including philosophical assumptions, ethical practices, review of the literature, purpose statements, hypotheses, research questions, research design, use of instruments for data collection and sampling.
- Compare and contrast the strengths and weaknesses of different research approaches, designs, and concepts.
- Prepare a research proposal, and address the various elements, including conceptualising the research purpose(s), stating the research objectives, formulating research hypotheses and/or questions, and constructing research instruments like a survey questionnaire and interview guide.
- Apply knowledge of the various elements within the research process to explain research concepts and recommend relevant designs, strategies, methodologies and methods.
- Propose appropriate, ethical, and evidence-based research designs, strategies, methodologies and methods for different research needs.

Assessment Strategies (Evening Class):

Components	Description	Weightage Allocation (%)
Overall Continuous Assessment	PRE-CLASS QUIZ 1	2
	PRE-CLASS QUIZ 2	2
	PRE-CLASS QUIZ 3	2
	PRE-CLASS QUIZ 4	2
	PRE-CLASS QUIZ 5	2
	TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT 1	20
	TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT 2	20
Overall Examinable Components	ECA	50
Total		100