

(L3- T1- P0 -CH 4- CR 4)

Course Instructor: Prof. Kedilezo Kikhi

**Course Objective:**

The course provides an exposure to the fundamentals of social science research methodology. It begins with a discussion on some important philosophical ideas underlying the emergence of different methodologies in social sciences. This course aims to familiarise the students to the different approaches in understanding and explaining social phenomena besides sensitising them to the relationship between theory and research. It also aims to acquaint students with the fundamentals of the quantitative and qualitative techniques of research.

**Course outcomes**

CO 1: Ability to understand the fundamentals of methodology and philosophical persuasions (approaches) of social science research.

CO 2: Develop skill to select a research problem and problematized it stating the rationale of the study.

CO 3: Ability to formulate research questions and state clear objectives to the topic of research.

CO 4: Ability to apply accurate quantitative and qualitative research tools (techniques) to the select topic of research.

CO 5: Ability to acquaint with appropriate referencing style and citations within the text.

**Course Outline**

**Unit I: Introduction to Research: Philosophy and Approaches**

- a) Enlightenment Science, Scientific Method
- b) Subjectivity - Objectivity Debate, Emergence of social science research
- c) Positivism and Post-Positivist Approaches

**Unit II: Designing Social Science Research:**

- a. Ethics and Politics in Research
- b: Research Process
- c. Research Design
- d. Concepts and Theory in research
- e. Sampling process

**Unit III: Quantitative Methods**

- a) Quantitative: Survey research
- b) Measurement and Scales
- c) Methods of Data Collection: Structured Interviews, Structured Observation
- d) Quantitative Data Analysis: Introduction to SPSS
- e) Report writing and Referencing

**Unit IV: Qualitative Approaches and Methods**

- a. Ethnography

- b. Methods of Data Collection (Interviews, Observation (participant & non-participant), Focus Group Discussion, Case Study, Oral History, Life History)
- c. Content Analysis, Narrative Analysis, Conversational Analysis, Discourse Analysis
- d. Introduction to Qualitative Data Analysis software nVivo

**Textbook(s)**

Bryman, A. (2011). *Social Research Methods*. London: Oxford University Press.  
 Blaikie, N. (2000). *Designing social research: the logic of anticipation*. Malden, MA: Polity Press.

**Reference book(s)**

Babbie, E.R. (2010). *The Practice of Social Research*. USA: Wadsworth: Cengage Learning.  
 Chalmers, A.F. (1999). Science as knowledge derived from the facts of experience. *What is this thing called science?* (3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.) (pp. 1-18). Cambridge: Hackett Publishing Company Incorporated.  
 Denzin, Norman K. & Lincoln, Yvonna S. (2000). *Handbook of Qualitative Research*. Sage: London.  
 Dooley, David. (2007). *Social Research Methods (fourth Edition)*. New Delhi: Prentice Hall of India.  
 Durkheim, E. (1958). *The Rules of Sociological Method*. New York: The Free Press.  
 Geertz, C. (1973). *Interpretation of Cultures*. New York: Basic Books.  
 Goode, W.J. & Hatt, P.K. (2006). *Methods in Social Research* (Indian reprint). New Delhi: Surjeet Publisher.  
 Jackson, Alecia Y. & Mazzei, Lisa A. (2012). *Thinking with Theory in Qualitative Research: Viewing Data across Multiple Perspectives*. London: Routledge.  
 Kuhn, T. S. (1970). *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*. London: The University of Chicago Press.  
 Malcolm, W. & May, T. (1996). Introduction. *Introduction to the Philosophy of Social Research* (pp. 1-12). London: Routledge.  
 Marvasti, Amir. (2004). *Qualitative Research in Sociology* (Introducing Qualitative Methods Series). Delhi: Sage Publications.  
 Marx, K. (1974). Forward and Introduction. *Grundrisse: Foundations of the Critique of Political Economy*. London: Penguin Books in association with New Left Review.  
 Merton, R. K. (1972). *Social Theory and Social Structure*. Delhi: Arvind Publishing House.  
 Mukherjee, P.N. (Ed.) (2000). *Methodology in Social Research: Dilemmas and Perspectives*. New Delhi: Sage.  
 Myrdal, G. (1970). *Objectivity in Social Research*. London: Gerald Duckworth.  
 Neuman, W.L. (2006). *Social Research Methods: Quantitative and Qualitative Approach*. New Delhi: Pearson Education India.  
 Popper, K. (1999). *The Logic of Scientific Discovery*. London: Routledge.  
 Silvermān, David. (1993). *Interpreting Qualitative Data*. London: Sage.  
 Srinivas, M.N. & Shah, A.M. (2010). *Field Worker and the Field*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.  
 Vaus, D.A. (1986). *Surveys in Social Research*. London: George Relen and Unwin Hughes.  
 Weber, M. (1949). *The Methodology of the Social Sciences*. New York: The Free Press.  
 Young, Pauline V. (1996). *Scientific Social Surveys and Research*. New Delhi: Prentice Hall of India.

**Course Plan**

Lectures	Topics
1	Introducing the Course
2-3	Enlightenment Science
4-5	Introduction to Research: What is Science / Scientific Method / Research Methodology?
6-8	Subjectivity - Objectivity Debate
9-10	Emergence of social science research
11-12	Positivism and Post Positivist Approaches

13	Ethics and Politics in Research
14-15	Research Process
16	Research Design
17	Concepts and Theory in research
18-19	Sampling process
20-21	Quantitative: Survey research
22	Measurement and Scales
23-24	Methods of Data Collection: Structured Interviews, Structured Observation
25	Quantitative Data Analysis: Introduction to SPSS
26-27	Report writing and Referencing
28-29	Ethnography
30-35	Methods of Data Collection (Interviews, Observation (participant & non-participant), Focus Group Discussion, Case Study, Oral History, Life History)
36-39	Content Analysis, Narrative Analysis, Conversational Analysis, Discourse Analysis
40	Introduction to Qualitative Data Analysis software nVivo
41-42	Summing Up
43	Sessional Test I (November 25) (Marks Display – November 30) (20 marks)
44	Sessional Test II (December 18) (Marks Display – December 22) (20 marks)
45	Sessional Test III (January 27) (Marks Display - February 1) (20 marks)
46	End Semester Examination (February 18 – February 27) (March 5) (40 marks)

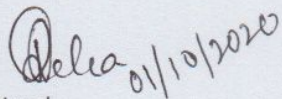
- Note: a) Total Marks = 100  
b) Nature of classes = live classes and pre-recorded videos  
c) Assessment/evaluation = written tests, quizzes, presentations, home assignments, viva, term paper, formulating research questions (on specific selected problem/s) and other modes as deemed suitable.

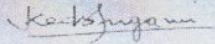
### Pedagogy

A combination of critical and creative pedagogy will be used for this course. Critical engagement with the philosophical and theoretical debates in research methodology will help the students to go beyond the text and reflex their own philosophical positions on method. Overall reflective practicing and experiential learning will be the basis of teaching and learning process.

The time in class will be split between lectures, discussions, tutorials.

The purpose of the lectures will be to review the major conceptual points of each new topic and to integrate the material. The students are expected to read materials prior to the class, so that lectures can be more interactive.

  
Head  
Dept. of Sociology

  
Kedilezo Kikhi  
Course Instructor