

# SS2034: RESEARCH METHODS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES

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## Effective Term

Semester A 2022/23

## Part I Course Overview

### Course Title

Research Methods in Social Sciences

### Subject Code

SS - Social and Behavioural Sciences

### Course Number

2034

### Academic Unit

Social and Behavioural Sciences (SS)

### College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

### Course Duration

One Semester

### Credit Units

3

### Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

### Medium of Instruction

English

### Medium of Assessment

English

### Prerequisites

Nil

### Precursors

Nil

### Equivalent Courses

Nil

### Exclusive Courses

SS2033 Research Methods for Behavioural Sciences

## Part II Course Details

### Abstract

This course aims to equip students with a comprehensive knowledge of research methods for pursuing more advanced and methodological issues in social research. It emphasizes, with equal balance, knowledge and practical skills for conducting research. It hopes to enable students to become familiar with the basic characteristics of social research, and to understand the nature of the components which are essential to the development as well as implementation of a research project.

### Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Describe key concepts and major methodological approaches in social science research;	40	x		
2	Identify the merits as well as limitations of social science research;	20	x	x	
3	Write up a feasible research proposal.	40	x	x	x

#### A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

#### A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

#### A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

### Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)

TLAs	Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	TLA1: Lectures	Lecturers explain social research principles and concepts.	1, 2, 3
2	TLA2: Class assignments	In the weekly lectures, students are required to attempt a wide variety of class assignments on selected issues of academic and practical interests related to social research. They are expected to tackle the problems through a problem-solving approach.	1, 2, 3

3	TLA3: In-class Test	Students are required to attend an in-class test which includes multiple choice questions testing on students' understanding of the basic concepts.	2, 3	
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**Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)**

ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks (e.g. Parameter for GenAI use)	
1	AT1: In-class test The in-class test consists of 80 multiple-choice type questions.	1, 2, 3	40	
2	AT2: Class Assignments (Individual / Group) Both individual and group assignments on selected topic of both qualitative as well as quantitative social research methods are introduced so as to assess students' understanding and application of concepts and skills related to social research methods.	1, 2, 3	20	
3	AT3: Group Research Proposal A group research proposal of not more than 4,000 words is required. The aim of this assignment is to train students' abilities in integrating theoretical and empirical findings and arguments arising from literature review, formulating hypotheses, and choosing appropriate designs and analytical methods.	1, 2, 3	40	

**Continuous Assessment (%)**

100

**Examination (%)**

0

**Assessment Rubrics (AR)****Assessment Task**

1. Group Research Proposal

### **Criterion**

1. Organisation: Refers to format and presentation: logical structure, good use of headings where appropriate# effective presentation.
2. Originality: Refers to original thinking, creativity, innovative analysis
3. Analysis: Refers to the quality, clarity, and depth of the analytical work involved in addressing questions and issues
4. Research effort: Includes resourcefulness, effort, and diligence in the search for and presentation of suitable information
5. English writing: Grammar, spelling, sentence construction, etc.
6. Referencing: Refers to the use of an accurate referencing system, appropriate citations in the essay, and avoidance of plagiarism.

### **Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

An excellent paper# very good mastery of the ideas or concepts, with excellent or innovative analysis. A is on the edge of this category, but still very good

### **Good (B+, B, B-)**

A solid paper with reasonably good analysis and use of information.

### **Fair (C+, C, C-)**

Documentation, analysis, writing, use of concepts, referencing, and effort are mostly adequate for a passing grade, but with enough flaws and shortcomings that it cannot be judged to be “good” or “very good” .

### **Marginal (D)**

Barely a pass. Many serious flaws and shortcomings, but adequate effort and some research

### **Failure (F)**

Does not demonstrate the minimum research effort and documentation# or substantial plagiarism

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### **Assessment Task**

2. Class assignments

### **Criterion**

Ability to apply relevant concepts and skills related to social statistics and research methods.

### **Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

High

### **Good (B+, B, B-)**

Significant

### **Fair (C+, C, C-)**

Moderate

### **Marginal (D)**

Basic

### **Failure (F)**

Not even reaching marginal levels

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### **Assessment Task**

3. In-class Test

**Criterion**

Scores of MCQ questions obtained.

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

75 marks or above

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

60 to 74 marks

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

45 to 59 marks

**Marginal (D)**

40 to 44 marks

**Failure (F)**

Below 40 marks

## Part III Other Information

**Keyword Syllabus**

The nature and scope of social research, Problem Formulation, Issues of Measurement, Qualitative and Quantitative Research Design, Experimentation, Sampling and Survey Research, Questionnaire and Interviews, Observational and Unobtrusive Methods, Data Management and Processing, Idea of Descriptive and Inferential Statistics, Qualitative Data Analysis, and Interpretation.

**Reading List****Compulsory Readings**

	Title
1	Neuman, W. L. (2014). Social research methods : qualitative and quantitative approaches, 8th ed. N. J. : Pearson.
2	Babbie, E. R. (2010). The Practice of Social Research (12th ed.). California: Wadsworth.

**Additional Readings**

	Title
1	Berg, Bruce L. (2007). Qualitative research methods for the social sciences (6th ed.). Boston: Pearson/Allyn & Bacon.
2	Blaxter, L., Hughes, C., & Tight, M. (2010). How to research (4th ed.). England: Open University Press.
3	Cargan, L. (2007) Doing social research Landham, Md. : Rowman & Littlefield.
4	Denzin, Norman K., & Lincoln, Yvonna S. (2003). The landscape of qualitative research: Issues and theories (2nd ed.). London: SAGE Publications.
5	Holosko, M. J. (2006). Primer for critiquing social research: A student guide. Australia: Brooks/Cole.
6	Robson, C. (2011) Real World Research : a resource for users of social research methods in applied settings. Chichester : Wiley.
7	Salkind, N. J. (2012). Exploring research (8th ed.). Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Pearson/Prentice Hall Higher Education.