

SS2033: RESEARCH METHODS FOR BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCES

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Research Methods for Behavioural Sciences

Subject Code

SS - Social and Behavioural Sciences

Course Number

2033

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

SS1101 Basic Psychology or SS2023 Basic Psychology I

Equivalent Courses

SS2027 Social Statistics and Research Methods or SS2034 Research Methods in Social Sciences: Quantitative and Qualitative Methods

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course aims to enhance students' abilities in using quantitative methods commonly employed in social sciences. It provides students with training on computer application, instruction in statistical techniques, and skills and expertise

in research methods for social science research. Students should be able to design and conduct social science research, analyze and interpret the results, and communicate the findings in a professional manner.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Describe key concepts and major methodological approaches in behavioural sciences.	40	x	x	
2	Identify the merits as well as limitations of quantitative and qualitative research.	10	x		
3	Apply basic data management and reporting in research reports including tabulating and graphing data, and writing in APA format.	20		x	
4	Generate a research idea and develop a feasible research proposal.	30			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.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs		Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Lecture	Students will engage in lectures to gain knowledge about research principles and statistical concepts for behavioural sciences, and to critically analyse and evaluate various research methodologies.	1, 2, 4	

2	Tutorials/Group Discussion	Students will participate in tutorials to acquire skills in reviewing literature critically and describe its related concepts. Students will also get familiar with the APA writing format. Through the group discussions, students can share their creative and innovative ideas in their research proposals.	1, 2, 4	
3	Computer Workshops	Students will participate in hands-on exercises to extend their use of the SPSS software, and other relevant programs for tabulating and graphing data. Students will generate their own data for their assignments.	1, 3	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs		CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Quiz	1, 2	50	-	No
2	Group Research Proposal	3, 4	35	-	No
3	Assignment on Statistical Analysis	1, 3	10	-	No
4	Participation	1, 2, 3	5	GenAI can facilitate the learning in some research-related class activities, where performance contributes to this assessment task.	Yes

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

Quiz

Criterion

ABILITY to describe key concepts and major methodological approaches

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

Group Research Proposal

Criterion

ABILITY to GENERATE a research idea and DEVELOP a feasible proposal in APA format

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

Assignment on Statistical Analysis

Criterion

ABILITY to CONDUCT statistical analyses and INTERPRET findings

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

Participation

Criterion

ABILITY to describe key concepts and CONDUCT statistical analyses

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not reaching marginal levels

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Issues of Measurement, Idea of Descriptive Statistics, Science, Values and Ethics, Sampling and Survey Research, Questionnaire and Interviews, Experimentation, Qualitative Research Methods, Observational and Unobtrusive Methods

Reading List**Compulsory Readings**

Title	
1	Gravetter, F., & Forzano, L. B. (2009). Research methods for the behavioral sciences. CA: Wadsworth.

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Babbie, E. R. (2007). The practice of social research. Belmont, California: Wadsworth.
2	Babbie, E. R. (2011). The basics of social research (5th ed.). Wadsworth, CA: Wadsworth Cengage Learning.
3	Babbie, E. R., Halley, F. S., Wagner, W. E., III, & Zaino, J. (2011). Adventures in social research: Data analysis using IBM SPSS statistics (7th ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press.
4	Healey, J. F. (2009). Statistics: A tool for social research (8th ed.). Belmont, CA: Thomson/Wadsworth.
5	Levin, J. (2011). Elementary statistics in social research: The essentials (3rd ed.). Boston: Allyn & Bacon.
6	Miller, D. C. (2002). Handbook of research design and social measurement: A text and reference book for the social and behavioral sciences. New York: Longman.

7	Neuman, W. L. (2011). Social research methods: Qualitative and quantitative approaches (7th ed.). Boston: Allyn & Bacon.
8	Ragin, C. C. (2011). Constructing social research: The unity and diversity of method (2nd ed.). Los Angeles: SAGE Publications.
9	Salkind, N. J. (2006). Exploring research. New Jersey: Prentice Hall.
10	Wagner, W. E. (2010). Using SPSS for social statistics and research methods (2nd ed.). Los Angeles: Pine Forge Press.
11	Wilkinson, D. (Ed.). (2003). The researcher' s toolkit: The complete guide to practitioner research. London: Routledge.
12	http://www.apastyle.org/elecref.html
13	http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/
14	http://www.wadsworth.com/psychology_d/templates/student_resources/workshops/index.html