

SOC C-704: Introduction to Social Research

Course Objectives:

This course plan aims to provide exposure to the fundamentals of research techniques and methods. It would introduce certain philosophical ideas underlying the emergence of different methodologies in social sciences. The sections attempt to sensitize students to develop a critical outlook at the existing perspectives and methods and to evolve conceptual clarity, which can lead them in their future research. Teaching certain quantitative methods, statistical techniques and qualitative methods to collect and analyze the data would help them organize and analyze the information gathered by them.

UNIT-I

Conceptualizing Science as a Body of Knowledge

- Science and common sense – characteristics of science
- Science – theory of falsification –critical rationalism
- Normal science – paradigm – scientific revolution

UNIT-II

Positivism and other Traditions

- Scientific Study of Social Phenomena: Problems of Subjectivity and Objectivity.
- Positivism and its Critique
- Interpretivist approach

Unit-III

Research Problem and Measurement

- Formulation of research problem
- Hypothesis, formulation of hypothesis
- Literature review
- Research Design
- Sources of data- primary and secondary

Unit-IV

Research Methods

- Types of research methods; quantitative, qualitative; similarities and dissimilarities
- Ethics and politics in social research

903C Quantitative Research in Social Sciences

Unit I

Nature of Quantitative Research

- Characteristics of quantitative research
- Operationalization of concepts
- Instruments of Data Collection: Questionnaire and Schedule
- Measurement- Attributes and Variables; Scales of measurement; validity and reliability in measuring social data.

Unit II

Quantitative methods

- Survey method
- Sampling method, types of sampling strategies
- Techniques of data collection

Unit III

Data analysis and interpretation

- Content analysis
- Secondary analysis
- Statistical analysis of Survey data: Descriptive Statistics and Inferential Statistics.
- Descriptive Statistics: Univariate, Bivariate, and Multivariate.
- Inferential Statistics: Hypothesis testing and non-parametric statistics.

Unit IV

Statistics in Social Research

- Measures of central tendency: Mean, median, mode
- Measures of Dispersion: Standard/Quartile Deviation
- Computer aided statistical analysis of data: MS Excel and SPSS
- Report Writing

SOC 805E - Social Entrepreneurship

The paper endeavours to develop strategic orientation and motivation for success with social conscience. Social Entrepreneurship prepares students for innovatively approaching public needs with a combination of entrepreneurial practices and social purposes through the for-profit, nonprofit, and governmental sectors.

Unit: I: Key Terms

- Industry and society: Interface
- Sustainability
- Social Entrepreneur

Unit: II

- Sustainability of development organisations
- Contemporary issues in management of social sector
- Operational Skills of management and vision to develop social enterprises

Unit: III: Corporate Social Responsibility

- Meaning, Features
- Case studies:

Unit -IV: Social Entrepreneurship in India

- Key roles of Indian social entrepreneurs
- Problem and prospects

Key readings:

Social Entrepreneurship in India: Quarter Idealism and a Pound of Pragmatism, by Madhukar Shukla.

SOCY-9021: Sociology of Tribal Life

Objective:

This course exposes to the students to the issues on the discourse of tribes in India. It introduces the various aspects of the tribal situation in India. The course deals with the main aspects such as the relationship between tribe and caste, social differentiation among the tribes. It provides a systematic overview about the perspectives of tribes in India by referring to Verrier Elwin, Hutton and G.S. Ghurye and their contribution to tribal sociology.

Group-A

UNIT-I

Conceptualizing tribes:

- (a) Construction of tribes
- (b) Concept of tribe & caste, Tribes as indigenous people

Perspectives on Tribes in India – world:-Africa/ Afghanistan (Comparative perspective), Elwin, Hutton & Ghurye

UNIT-II

Social Change in tribal societies:

- (a) Transformation of tribes – Tribe, Caste dichotomy, Sanskritization, Hinduization, Tribalization, Christianization- North-East perspective, Islamization of Tribes in East Bengal
- (b) Impact of Modernization on tribes

Group-B

UNIT-III

North East India as a social space and changing dimensions:

- (a) North East India as a cultural construct in historical and contemporary dimensions
- (b) North East India as a sociological construct: Special Reference to Tripura
- (c) Caste, community, tribe, caste- tribe interaction, variation and similarity between local and the national

UNIT-IV

Regional-national interface:

Insider and outsider, local and national, federal and unitary

Regional economy, regional polity, regional culture and cultural nationalism

Social movement- Bodo movement, Naga movement, Ethnic movements in Tripura

904E: Fieldwork (Practical+ Report writing)

Course Description and Objectives:

This course shall introduce sociological field research to the students who will collectively take up a research project for application of research methods on the field. They will engage in interview technique to collect data from the field. Under the supervision and guidance of the course instructor, students will get a first-hand experience of fieldwork and its methodological and practical challenges. This would enable them to carry out research for their individual projects more independently, efficiently and confidently. Specific research topics and field sites will be selected each year by the course instructor and students. The students who enrol for the course will be divided into smaller groups, each of which will be in charge of one part of the data collection process. The course instructor will take turns to be part of each group and hold regular meetings where students of each group will have discussions and sharing of their experiences. The collected data will be analysed collectively within the framework of various sociological theories and concepts discussed in various courses of the programme under the guidance of the instructor and other faculty members.

SOCY- 803C: Qualitative Research

Total Credit: 4
Contact Hours: 48

Objective:

This paper aims to introduce students to the domain of qualitative research methods. It will deal with qualitative research methods, such as, ethnography, focus group discussion (FGD) case study method and narrative analysis and continue with the discussion on analysing qualitative data and writing qualitative reports.

Group-A

Unit I: Introducing Qualitative Research

- History of Qualitative Methods
- Non positivist methodologies

Unit II: Qualitative Methods and Techniques – I

- Ethnography
- Focus Group Discussion (FGD)

Group-B

Unit III: Qualitative Methods and Techniques – II

- Case Study Method
- Narrative Analysis

Unit IV: Analysing Qualitative Data and Writing Qualitative Reports

Analysing Qualitative Data

Writing Qualitative Report

Essential Reading:

American Sociological Association. 2010. *American Sociological Association Style Guide*. 4th ed. Washington, DC: American Sociological Association.

Analysing Qualitative Research Data – Module-

4 http://libweb.surrey.ac.uk/library/skills/Introduction%20to%20Research%20and%20Managing%20Information%20Leicester/page_75.htm. Accessed on 5/15/2015

Agarwal, Michael. 2007. *Doing Ethnographic and Observational Research*. London: Sage.