

**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**  
**University of Delhi**  
**M. Phil Program**  
**Paper on Research Methodology w.e.f. (2009-2010)**

**1. THE EPISTEMIC FOUNDATIONS**

- a. **Positivism and Empiricism**
- b. **Hermeneutics:**
- c. **Marxism and Method**
- d. **Phenomenology**
- e. **Critical Approaches to Social Science Knowledge**
- f. **Debates around Scientific Method in Political Science - Explanation, Causality and law, Functional mode of explanation**

**1. RESEARCH DESIGN**

Typical research designs in Political Science with reference to major works and the State of the Art of Discipline from a Methodological standpoint.

- a. **Political Philosophy**
- b. **Comparative Politics**
- c. **Indian Politics**
- d. **International Relations**
- e. **Public Administration and Policy**

**2. COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS OF INFORMATION**

- a. **Historical Methods and Archival Sources**
- b. **Analysis of Texts**
- c. **Producing Primary Data**
  - (i) Survey research: stages of its design and execution techniques of survey data analysis,
  - (ii) Sampling and census techniques—introduction to common sampling techniques in Political Science
- d. **Interpreting Secondary Empirical Data**
  - (i) NSS, Census—their utility
  - (ii) Interpretation of Statistical Data (students will not be required to do numericals— we focus on statistical reasoning: what is appropriate statistical measure and how to interpret computer generated results of these, as commonly required in Political Science research):
    1. how to read and interpret a simple (univariate and bivariate) table
    2. measures of central tendency: mean, median, mode
    3. measures of dispersion range, standard deviation
    4. measures of association: correlation and the logic of regression (students will not be expected to calculate regression)
    5. tests of significance
    6. utility and limits of statistical analysis
- e. **Ethnography**—participant and non-participant observation.
- f. **Qualitative Research in Political Science**

**3. NUTS AND BOLTS OF RESEARCH : *this a hands-on section, in which the ability to actually do will be evaluated, rather than theoretical or abstract knowledge***

- i. How to cite references: Introduction to standard style manuals on footnotes and bibliography
- ii. How to search for sources in the library and on the Internet— introduction to major libraries, search engines and websites relevant to Political Science

**5. PREPARING A RESEARCH PROPOSAL**