MA Political Science Sem-IV [2023-2024]
PS-Skill 401 [Applied Political Science]

Mode of submission: Via Google Form only, in typed form.
Link: https://forms.gle/MLB7vLHW2gJoX5Jy9

Deadline: **26 May 2024**

Indicative Guidelines for Research Proposal

Components of the Proposal:

The research proposal needs to include the following components, preferably in the order listed here:

1. Introduction/background
'What', 'Why' and 'How' of your research.

§ What do you want to study/problematize/look at/examine?

§ Why are you interested in the topic of your choice? What is the relevance of your study? What is the value addition that you seek to provide?

§ How do you plan to examine the topic: stating your methodology and strategy.

§ Background of your research, explicating the context.

Do not use more than 1-2 lines each to address these aspects here. The details can be spelt out in later sections.

2. Review of the literature and identification of literature gap
This would form the bulk of proposal. Please do not write a bibliographical essay. You need to review the existing literature and connect different scholarly works/other sources that make them relevant to your research question. Situate your arguments in and around the existing works. A thematic review is advisable. Cite all sources that you include even indirectly in your paper. Follow in-text citations and mention the last name of Author with Year in parentheses. Eg. (Sarkar, 1919).
Avoid footnotes and stick to in-text citation.

It is expected that you use a minimum of 3-5 books and 8-10 articles.

3. Definition, Rationale and Scope of the study

Define the study, provide working definition of key terms.
Provide rationale/justification, identify gap and state the value addition.
State the limitations – what the research is not able to do.

4. Research Question and Hypothesis
       - Statement of Research Problem
       - Central Question
       - Related Questions
       - Hypothesis

There has to be one (or more) clear research questions and corresponding hypothesis (hypotheses). Your hypothesis is the tentative answer to your research question.

5. Research Methodology
The methodology has two parts: the framework/approach and the sources you would use. The framework/approach is the theoretical framework which you derive from the literature and you will need to explain why you think this is the best approach to do this research. Additionally, you need to explain whether this will be qualitative or quantitative in nature, which will decide what kind of sources you are using.
The sources could be any combination of the following: The literature already referred to in the review (not books, journals, magazines); Narratives - oral or written; Statistical information already available on the issue; Fresh data collected through questionnaires, where you will have to also explain the sample, etc.

6. Tentative Chapterisation
Mention the headings of tentative chapters with a brief description (1-2 lines) of the content of each chapter.

7. References
Cite all sources in alphabetical order, last name first.
Use APA format (6th edition) for referencing.
Refer to the examples below for specific source types:

Article in a Journal
Doyle, M.W. (1983). Kant, Liberal Legacies, and Foreign Affairs. *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, *12 (3):* 205-235.

Book
Brown, C. (1992). *International Relations Theory: New Normative Approaches*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Chapter in an Edited Volume
Shue, H. (2004). Limiting Sovereignty. In J.M. Welsh (ed.), *Humanitarian Intervention and International Relations* (pp. 11-28). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Newspaper Article
Chishti, S. (2014, November 29). Biggest Caste Survey: One in Four Indians Admit to Practising Untouchability. *The Indian Express*, New Delhi, p. 5.

Government/Non-Government Organization Publications/ Acts
UN (March 2011). *UNSC Resolution 1973, UN Doc. S/RES/1973*. Retrieved from http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/1973(2011)

Government of India (1993). *The National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993, No.27 of 1993*. Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs (Legislative Department), New Delhi.

Internet Documents
Kak, S. (2018). Indian Foundations of Modern Science. Retrieved from https://subhashkak.medium.com/indian-foundations-of-modern-science-72259046700f

Text style:

The main text should be in Times New Roman, Font size 12, 1.5 spacing, default black font. Page margins should be 1.5 inch (3.81 cm) on left and 1 inch (2.54 cm) on all other sides.
Direct quotations should be single spaced, left indented and double quoted.
Sub-headings should be **bold** and level 2 subheadings should *italicised*.
Proposal has to be typed and not handwritten.
For Hindi proposals, use Mangal (or any Unicode) font.

Word Range:

2500 – 6000 words.

About plagiarism:

Plagiarism/similarity over 25% will invite penalty. Plagiarism implies using others' arguments without acknowledging the same. You need to use in-text citation in your paper even if you use others' arguments indirectly or paraphrase those arguments. In case of doubt, it is better to over-cite. Paraphrasing something and using synonyms does not make someone else's idea as your own. You need to cite all borrowed ideas.

About AI tools:

Do not use AI tools for generating summaries or paraphrasing. Use of tools such as ChatGPT, Quillbot, Bard, Jenni, etc. for more than 25% of your content will invite penalty and papers relying on AI tools for more than 50% of their content will be rejected.

Regarding Submission:

Submission must be made only using the Google form (https://forms.gle/MLB7vLHW2gJoX5Jy9).
Please select the appropriate subdiscipline for your submission from the six listed options in the Google form (Political Theory and Western Political Thought; Indian Politics; Public Administration and Public Policy; Comparative Politics; International Relations; and Indian Political Thought).
The final deadline for submission is 26 May 2024. No extensions will be provided.

All students must take approval of their topic by sending their title and research questions via email at psskill2023@gmail.com.