

# Syllabus for the Research Methodology (M.Phil)

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