

Advance Research Methodology Course

PhD Political Science

Credits: 4

Marks: 100

Outline:

This PhD course introduces students to the fundamental ideas, theories, and techniques that form social science inquiry, laying the groundwork for conducting rigorous political science research. It provides a solid foundation in the ontological, epistemological, and methodological frameworks required for concentrated, methodical research. The course opens with puzzle-driven research and key concepts method, methodology, theory, and meta-theory before exploring the historical and epistemological dimensions of philosophy of science and their application to political science. Students then examine major paradigm shifts in the social sciences and debates over how these have influenced political science as a discipline. The course also addresses research considerations specific to political science's various sub-fields. After covering the fundamentals of qualitative and quantitative methods, the course concludes by training students in academic writing skills equipping them with the conceptual and practical tools needed for original, well-grounded scholarly research.

1. Doing Research
 - a. What, When and Why- Prof. Nasreen Chowdhory (4hrs) – done
 - b. Method and Methodology- Prof. Madhulika Banerjee (4 hrs)- done
 - c. Theory and Meta- theory-Prof Navnita C Behera (4 hrs)
 - d. Decolonizing Research Methods- Prof Navnita C Behera (4 hrs)

Recommended Readings

Yanow, Dvora and Peregrine Schwartz-Shea (eds.) (2015), *Interpretation and Method: Empirical Research Methods and the Interpretive Turn*, Second Edition, Routledge, pp. xi-xxx1, 1-23.

Walter, Maggie, "The Nature of Social Science Research", Oxford University Press, pp. 1-2.

Reference Readings

William Roberts Clark, Chapter 1, "Asking Interesting Questions," and Adam McCauley and Andrea Ruggeri, Chapter 2, "From Questions and Puzzles to Research Project," in Luigi Curini and Robert Franzese, eds., *The SAGE Handbook of Research Methods in Political Science and International Relations*, London, Sage, 2020, pp. 7-43.

Olive, J. L. Reflecting on the Tensions Between Emic and Etic Perspectives in Life History Research: Lessons Learned Forum: Qualitative Research Volume 15, No. 2, Art. 6 – May 2014

Liebersohn, S. Asking Too Much, Expecting Too Little Sociological Perspectives, Vol. 31, No. 4 (Oct., 1988), pp. 379-397.

Denicolo, P. & I. Becker, Developing Research Proposals Sage, New Delhi, 2012.

1.b. Method and Methodology

Recommended Readings

Priyam, M. (2016). Political Ethnography as a Method for Understanding Urban Politics and Elections in India. *Studies in Indian Politics*, 4(1), 119-127.

Priyam, M. (2017). Political Processes under the Microscope: Comparative Ethnography as an Approach to Understanding Democracy and Elections in India. *Studies in Indian Politics*, 5(1), 73-81.

Reference Readings

Banerjee, M. "The politics of knowledge in development: An analytical frame." *Studies in Indian Politics* 9, no. 1 (2021): 78-90.

Singh, P. "Politics of knowledge in development: Explorations in seed sovereignty." *Studies in Indian Politics* 9, no. 1 (2021): 105-117.

Jha, Pankaj Kumar. "State, floods and politics of knowledge: a case of the Mahananda Basin of Bihar." *Studies in Indian Politics* 9, no. 1 (2021): 91-104.

Handa, Abhishek. "The politics of knowledge of medicinal plants in India: corporations, collectors and cultivators as constituents." *Studies in Indian Politics* 10, no. 1 (2022): 93-106.

Singh, Arun Kumar. "Politics of knowledge in development: The case of sugar as an artificial sweetener." *Studies in Indian Politics* 10, no. 1 (2022): 107-117.

1.c. Theory and Meta- theory

Recommended Readings

- Bryman, Alan, and Edward Bell. Chapter 1: “General Research Orientations.” In *Social Research Methods*, 5th Canadian ed., 2–26. Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press, 2019.
- Bingham, Andrea J., Robert Mitchell, and Daria S. Carter. Chapter 1: “Introduction”; and Chapter 2: “Understanding and Applying Theoretical and Conceptual Frameworks.” In *A Practical Guide to Theoretical Frameworks for Social Science Research*, 1–13, 14–25. New York: Routledge, 2023.
- Sell, Jane and Webster Jr. Murray. Chapter 1: “What is a Theory?”; Chapter 2: “Concepts,” In *Developing Theories In The Social Sciences: Methods and Applications*, 1-5, 6-16. Cambridge University Press, 2026.
- Fay, B. (1985). Theory and metatheory in social science — or, why the philosophy of social science is so hard. *Metaphilosophy*, 16(2/3), 150–165.
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/24436740>
- Parsons, T. (1979). On Theory and Meta theory. *Humboldt Journal of Social Relations*, 7(1), 5–16. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/23261746>

Reference Readings

- Sell, Jane and Webster Jr. Murray. Chapter 5: “Testing Theory,” In *Developing Theories In The Social Sciences: Methods and Applications*, 47-65. Cambridge University Press, 2026.
- Gonzalez-Ocantos, Ezequiel. “Designing Qualitative Research Projects: Notes on Theory Building, Case Selection and Field Research,” in Luigi Curini and Robert Franzese, eds., *The SAGE Handbook of Research Methods in Political Science and International Relations*, London, Sage, 2020, pp. 104-120.
- Fiske, Donald W. and Richard Schweder, eds., *Meta Theory in Social Science: Pluralism and Subjectivities*, University of Chicago Press, 1986.
- Layder, Derek, *Understanding Social Theory*, Sage, 2006.

1.d. Decolonizing Research Methods

Recommended Readings

- Smith, Linda Tuhiwai. 2012. Chapter 1, “Imperialism, History, Writing and Theory.” In *Decolonizing Methodologies: Research and Indigenous Peoples*, 1–19; Chapter 2, “Research through Imperial Eyes.” In *Decolonizing Methodologies: Research and Indigenous Peoples*, 20–41; Chapter 3, “Colonizing Knowledges.” In *Decolonizing Methodologies: Research and Indigenous Peoples*, 42–61 in Smith, Linda Tuhiwai, *Decolonizing Methodologies: Research and Indigenous Peoples*, London: Zed Books.

Ziai, Aram, Daniel Bendix, and Franziska Müller. Chapter 1: “Decolonizing Knowledge Orders, Research Methodology, and the Academia: An Introduction,” and Chapter 8: “Intermezzo II – Methodology,” in *Beyond the Master’s Tools? Decolonizing Knowledge Orders, Research Methods and Teaching*, edited by Daniel Bendix, Franziska Müller, and Aram Ziai, 1–18, 135–43, London: Rowman & Littlefield International, 2020.

Reiter, Bernd. Chapter 1: “Decolonizing Epistemology: Fuzzy Logic.” In *Decolonizing the Social Sciences and the Humanities: An Anti-Elitist Manifesto*, 19–40. London: Routledge, 2021.

Denscombe, Martyn. “Decolonial Research Methodology: An Assessment of the Challenge to Established Practice.” *International Journal of Social Research Methodology* 28, no. 2 (2025): 231–240. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13645579.2024.2357558>

Reference Readings

Coulthard, Glen Sean. 2014. *Red Skin, White Masks: Rejecting the Colonial Politics of Recognition*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Darder, Antonia, Luis F. Mirón, and Nicholas Denzin. Chapter 1: “Locating the Field: Performing Theories of Decolonizing Inquiry”; and Chapter 2, “Decolonizing Performances: Deconstructing the Global Postcolonial.” In *Handbook of Critical and Indigenous Methodologies*, edited by Norman K. Denzin, Yvonna S. Lincoln, and Linda Tuhiwai Smith, 21–30, 31–44. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications, 2008.

Leinius, Johanna. “Postcolonial Feminist Ethics and the Politics of Research Collaborations across North-South Divides”; Chapter 6, Brazzell, Melanie, “Community Accountable Scholarship within a Critical Participatory Action Research Model,” in *Beyond the Master’s Tools? Decolonizing Knowledge Orders, Research Methods and Teaching*, edited by Daniel Bendix, Franziska Müller, and Aram Ziai, 71–92, 93–111. London: Rowman & Littlefield International, 2020.

González, Ybiskay, Sara C. Motta, and Tiina Seppälä. 2023. “Decolonial Feminist Solidarity/ies.” In *Handbook of Feminist Research Methodologies in Management and Organization Studies*, edited by S. Katila, S. Meriläinen, and E. Bell, 297–314. Edward Elgar. <https://doi.org/10.4337/9781800377035.00028>.

Hutchings, Kimberly. 2019. “Decolonizing Global Ethics: Thinking with the Pluriverse.” *Ethics and International Affairs* 33 (2): 115–25. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0892679419000169>.

Kovach, Margaret. 2021. *Indigenous Methodologies: Characteristics, Conversations, and Contexts*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

Mignolo, Walter D. 2018. *The Darker Side of Western Modernity: Global Futures; Decolonial*

Options. Durham: Duke University Press.

Motta, Sara C., and Ybiskay Gonzalez. 2023. "Yes, We Speak: Si Tenemos Voz: On Refusing Epistemological Terra Nullius." *Journal of Critical Southern Studies* 4.
<https://doi.org/10.3943/jcss.49>.

2. Philosophy of Science

- a. Karl Popper: Falsification - Dr Rashmi Gopi
- b. Thomas Kuhn: Paradigm Shift – Dr Smita
- c. Paul Feyerabend: Methodological Anarchism- Dr Saroj
- d. Imre Lakatos: The Methodology of Scientific Research Programmes
- e. Phenomenology (4 hrs) Dr. Smita

Recommended Readings

Okasha, S. (2016). *Philosophy of science: A very short introduction* (2nd ed.). Oxford University Press.

Losee, J. (2001). *A historical introduction to the philosophy of science*. OUP Oxford.

Popper, K. R. (2002). *Conjectures and refutations: The growth of scientific knowledge* (5th ed.). Routledge.

Feyerabend, P. (2020). *Against method: Outline of an anarchistic theory of knowledge*. Verso Books.

Lakatos, I. (1978). *The methodology of scientific research programmes: Volume 1: Philosophical papers* (Vol. 1). Cambridge University press.

Bedorf, T., & Herrmann, S. (Eds.). (2019). *Political phenomenology: Experience, ontology, episteme*. Routledge.

Reference Readings

Boyd, R., Gasper, P., & Trout, J. D. (Eds.). (1991). *The philosophy of science*. MIT Press.

Bird, A. (2014). *Thomas Kuhn*. Routledge.

Culler, J. (2008). *On deconstruction: Theory and criticism after structuralism*. Routledge.

Derrida, J. (2017). *The deconstruction of actuality: An interview with Jacques Derrida*. In *Deconstruction: A reader* (pp. 527-553). Routledge.

Friedman, M. (1999). *Reconsidering logical positivism*. Cambridge University Press.

Houston, C. (2022). Why social scientists still need phenomenology. *Thesis Eleven*, 168(1), 37-54.

Natanson, M. (1973). *Phenomenology and the social sciences* (Vol. 1) (Introduction). Northwestern University Press.

Roche, M. (2013). *Phenomenology, language and the social sciences* (Chapter 1). Routledge.

3. Methods

- a. Survey – Prof Sunil K Chaudhary
- b. Framing of questions – open ended close ended – Robert (to be done on 27th August 2PM)
- c. Method to conduct interview – Prof. Pamela Singla
- d. Focussed Group Discussion- Prof. Ashok
- e. Ethnography- Dr. Rajesh Dev- to be done on 25th august 2 PM
- f. Interpretive phenomenology- Prof N. SUKUMAR
- g. Thick ethnography- Prof. Nasreen

3.a Survey

Recommended Reading:

Zaller, John, and Stanley Feldman. 1992. "A Simple Theory of the Survey Response: Answering Questions versus Revealing Preferences." *American Journal of Political Science* 36 (3): 579–616.

Hobbs, William R., and Donald P. Green. 2024. "A Theory of Open-Ended Survey Response.”.

Reference Reading:

Schuman, Howard, and Stanley Presser. 1996. "Open versus Closed Questions." In *Questions and Answers in Attitude Surveys: Experiments on Question Form, Wording, and Context*. San Diego: Academic Press.

3.b Framing of questions – open ended close ended

Recommended Reading:

Leech, Beth L. 2002. "Asking Questions: Techniques for Semistructured Interviews." *PS: Political Science & Politics* 35 (4): 665–668.

Aberbach, Joel D., and Bert A. Rockman. 2002. "Conducting and Coding Elite Interviews." *PS: Political Science & Politics* 35 (4): 673–676

Pasek, Josh, and Jon A. Krosnick. 2010. "Optimizing Survey Questionnaire Design in Political Science: Insights from Psychology." In *The Oxford Handbook of Political*

Methodology, edited by Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, and David Collier. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Mullinix, Kevin J., Thomas J. Leeper, James N. Druckman, and Jeremy Freese. 2015. "The Generalizability of Survey Experiments." *Journal of Experimental Political Science* 2 (2): 109–118.

Reference Reading:

Will be suggested by the concerned instructor.

3.c Method to conduct interview

Recommended Reading:

Rubin, Herbert J., and Irene Rubin. 1995. *Qualitative Interviewing: The Art of Hearing Data*. Beverly Hills, CA: SAGE Publications.

Kvale, Steinar. 1996. *Interviews: An Introduction to Qualitative Research Interviewing*. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications.

Reference Readings:

Patton, Michael Quinn. 1990. *Qualitative Research and Evaluation Methods*. Beverly Hills, CA: SAGE Publications.

3.d Focussed Group Discussion

Recommended Reading:

David L. Morgan (1996), "Focus Groups," *Annual Review of Sociology*, 22, 129–152.
Barbour & Kitzinger (1999), *Developing Focus Group Research: Politics, Theory and Practice*.

Reference Reading:

Will be suggested by the concerned instructor.

3.e Ethnography

Recommended Reading:

Fenno, Richard F. 1978. *Home Style: House Members in Their Districts*. Boston: Little, Brown.

Schatz, Edward, ed. 2009. *Political Ethnography: What Immersion Contributes to the Study of Power*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

(Ethnography? Participant observation, a potentially revolutionary praxis, Alpa Shah, London School of Economics, and Political Science *Hau: Journal of Ethnographic Theory* 7 (1): 45–59)

Pachirat, T. (2011). *Every twelve seconds: Industrialized slaughter and the politics of sight*. Yale Agrarian Studies Series. Yale University Press. New Haven. pp. 320.
<https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctt5vm69m>

Reference Reading:

Vanderbilt University Writing Studio. 2020. *Taking Good Notes in the Field*. Nashville, TN: Vanderbilt University

3.f Interpretive phenomenology

Recommended Reading:

Eatough, V., & Smith, J. A. (2017). Interpretative phenomenological analysis. In *The Sage handbook of qualitative research in psychology*, Sage Publication.

Reference Reading:

Will be suggested by the concerned instructor.

3.g Thick ethnography

Recommended Reading:

Geertz, Clifford. 1973. "Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture." In *The Interpretation of Cultures: Selected Essays*. New York: Basic Books.

Zapata-Barrero, R., Yalaz, E. (2018). *Qualitative Methods in Migration Research*. IMISCOE Research Series. Springer <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-76861-8>

Shah, A. (2017). Ethnography? Participant observation, a potentially revolutionary praxis. *HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory* 7 (1). 45-59.
<https://doi.org/10.14318/hau7.1.008>

Dube, S. (2024). Disciplines and subjects: anthropology, history, modernity. *Eastern Anthropologist*, 77, 1-2. 1-17.

Reference Reading:

Will be suggested by the concerned instructor.

4. Academic Writing (Prof Ashok Acharya, Prof. Nasreen Chowdhory, Dr. Nishtha, Dr. Sitaram, Dr Surinder Mohan, (to be done from 2nd week of September)
 - a. Academic Integrity: Concept and Scope
 - b. Publication Ethics and Misconduct
 - c. Topic Selection, the Dissertation Proposal and Writing

- d. Organization of Thesis/Dissertation
- e. Publication Misconduct: Plagiarism, Self Plagiarism, Falsification, and Cheating
- f. How to Write a Paper

Recommended Readings

- Booth, W. C., Colomb, G. G., & Williams, J. M. (2008). *The craft of research* (3rd ed.). University of Chicago Press.
- McWilliams, S. (2017). Creative Writing and the Study of Politics. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 50(4), 1094–1098.
- Knopf, J. W. (2006). Doing a Literature Review. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 39(1), 127–132.
- Bretag, T. (2016). Defining Academic Integrity: International Perspectives – Introduction. In: Bretag, T. (ed.) *Handbook of Academic Integrity*. Springer, Singapore.
- Mohanty, S. (2016). Academic Integrity Practice: The View from India. In: Bretag, T. (eds) *Handbook of Academic Integrity*. Springer, Singapore.
- Chowdhary, N., Sunayana, & Prakash, M. (2024). *Research and Publication Ethics: An Introduction* (1st ed.). Routledge India.
- Keeney, P. (2006). *Academic Ethics* (R. Barrow, Ed.) (1st ed.). Routledge.
- Dougherty, M. (2020). Introduction. In: *Disguised Academic Plagiarism. Research Ethics Forum*, vol 8. Springer, Cham.
- Faria, R. (2018). What Is Research Misconduct?. In: *Research Misconduct as White-Collar Crime*. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham.
- Glendinning, I. (2023). Developing and Implementing Policies for Academic Integrity – Management of Change. In: Curtis, G.J. (eds) *Academic Integrity in the Social Sciences. Ethics and Integrity in Educational Contexts*, vol 6. Springer, Cham.
- Stephen Van Evera (1997), *Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science* (Cornell University Press), pp.97-128.
- Kate L. Turabian (2010), *Student's Guide to Writing College Papers*, 4th Edition, (Chicago: University of Chicago Press), Ch 7-8 (pp.75-88), Ch 12-13 (pp.115-128).

Reference Reading

- Bruton, S. V. (2014). Self-Plagiarism and Textual Recycling: Legitimate Forms of Research Misconduct. *Accountability in Research*, 21(3), 176–197.

- Cotton, D. R. E., Cotton, P. A., & Shipway, J. R. (2024). Chatting and cheating: Ensuring academic integrity in the era of ChatGPT. *Innovations in Education and Teaching International*, 61(2), 228–239.
- Farrokhnia, M., Banihashem, S. K., Noroozi, O., & Wals, A. (2024). A SWOT analysis of ChatGPT: Implications for educational practice and research. *Innovations in Education and Teaching International*, 61(3), 460–474.
- Giannakos, M., Azevedo, R., Brusilovsky, P., Cukurova, M., Dimitriadis, Y., Hernandez-Leo, D., ... Rienties, B. (2025). The promise and challenges of generative AI in education. *Behaviour & Information Technology*, 44(11), 2518–2544.
- Grimmer, Justin (2015). “We Are All Social Scientists Now: How Big Data, Machine Learning, and Causal Inference Work Together.” PS: *Political Science & Politics*.
- Ivanov, S. (2025). Responsible use of AI in social science research. *The Service Industries Journal*, 1–29.
- Lee Ann Fujii, “Research Ethics 101: Dilemmas and Responsibilities”
- Elisabeth Jean Wood, “The Ethical Challenges of Field Research in Conflict Zones”.
- Macfarlane, B., Zhang, J., & Pun, A. (2014). Academic integrity: A review of the literature. *Studies in Higher Education*, 39(2), 339–358.
- Mark Coeckelbergh, AI ETHICS,” in *AI Ethics* , MIT Press, 2020, pp.i-viii.
- Masters, P., Smith, W., Sonenberg, L., Kirley, M. (2021). Characterising Deception in AI: A Survey. In: Sarkadi, S., Wright, B., Masters, P., McBurney, P. (eds) *Deceptive AI*. Routledge.
- Peterson, C. J., Anderson, C., Berdine, G., & Nugent, K. (2026). Authors, Academics, and AI: Questions About Research and Publishing in the World of Artificial Intelligence. *Journal of Electronic Resources in Medical Libraries*, 23(1), 12–33.
- Taylor and Francis (nd) Research Ethics: Guidelines for arts, humanities, social sciences journals. Available at <https://authorservices.taylorandfrancis.com/editorial-policies/research-ethics-guidelines-for-arts-humanities-and-social-sciences-journals/>