

Course Code: ECON-203

Title: Research Methods- I

Credit Hours: 03

Prerequisite: Elementary Statistics

Course Objectives:

The primary objective of this course is to develop research orientation among the students and to acquaint them with fundamentals of research methods. Specifically, research methods I aims at introducing the basic concept of research methodology, hallmarks of scientific research, hypothetico-deductive and inductive method of research, review of literature, bibliography manager software, components of theoretical framework, hypothesis formulation and elements of research design.

Learning Outcomes:

In the course the students should be able to:

- Define a research question
- Write a research proposal
- Perform literature search
- Review, summarize and synthesize paper found in search
- Present the information in a variety of formats to a variety of audiences.

Course Contents:

Introduction to Research	Meaning of research, objectives of research, research methods versus research methodology, types of research in three perspective. Application perspective: basic versus applied research. Objective perspective: qualitative versus quantitative research types. Mode of enquiry perspective: structured and unstructured approach. Classification of research, inductive versus deductive logic. Time in research: cross sectional versus longitudinal.
Scientific Investigation	The hallmarks of scientific research: purposiveness, rigor, testability, replicability, precision and confidence, objectivity, generalizability and parsimony. The seven-step process in hypothetico-deductive method: identification of broad problem area, defining problem statement, developing hypothesis, determine measures, data collection, data analysis and interpretation of data. Some obstacles to conducting research in economics.
Research Questions	How problem can be translated into problem statement? General and specific research questions, developing research questions in different situations, role of research questions. Basic types of questions: exploratory and descriptive.
The Critical Literature Review	What is literature review? How to approach the literature review? Evaluating the literature and documenting the literature review. Familiarization with APA citation format for referencing relevant material. Ethical issues: plagiarism. Introduction to bibliography manager software.