

**Course Code: ECON-207**

**Title: Research Methods- I**

**Credit Hours: 03**

**Prerequisite: Quantitative Reasoning (I)**

**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:**

<b>Introduction to Research</b>	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.
<b>Scientific Investigation</b>	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.

<b>Research Questions</b>	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.
<b>The Critical Literature Review</b>	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.
<b>Theoretical Framework and Hypothesis Development</b>	Need of theoretical framework in deductive research, definitional concept of theoretical framework, four main types of variables: dependent, independent, moderating and mediating. How theory is generated? The components of a theoretical framework. Hypothesis development: directional and non-directional hypothesis.
<b>Elements of Research Design</b>	Research strategies: experiment, survey research, observation, case studies, grounded theory, action research and mixed methods. Extent of researcher interference with the study. Study setting. Units of analysis: individuals, dyads, groups, organizations and cultures. General overview of research methods, quantitative (multivariate) methods, qualitative (interpretive) methods and mixed methods.

**Teaching Methodology:**

- To deliver lectures on topics included in course outline
- To require each student to solve independent assignments on topics included in the course.
- To work on an independent research project.

**Evaluation Criteria:**

Evaluation Method	Total Percentage
Quizzes/Assignments	25%
Mid-Term Exam	35%
Final-Term Exam	40%

**Recommended Books:**

- Greenlaw, S., Doing Economics: A Guide to Understanding and Carrying Out Economics Research, South Western Cengage Learning.
- William, G., Zikmand, Business Research Methods, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition.
- Kothari, C.R, (2008). Research methodology: Methods and techniques. New Delhi, New Age International Publishers.

**Additional Readings:**

- Sekaran, U. (2006). Research methods for business: A skill building approach. Singapore, John Wiley and Sons.
- Teddlie, C., & Tashankkori, A. (2009). Foundations of mixed methods research: Integrating quantitative and qualitative approaches in the social and behavioral sciences. Sage Publication
- Singleton & Straits. Approaches to social research (5th edition.). Oxford University Press