



BS (4 Years) for Affiliated Colleges

Code	Subject Title	Cr. Hrs	Semester
APSY-356	Research Methods-I	3	V
Year	Discipline		
3	Applied Psychology		

Course Objectives

This course aims to:

- familiarize students with major concepts of research methodology i.e. from generating research idea to data collection, analysis and interpretation of findings.
- The course aims to develop scientific reasoning and understanding of link between theory and empirical investigation.
- equip them with expertise of examining strengths and weaknesses of methodologies drawn from qualitative and quantitative traditions.
- enable students make choices of appropriate methods to plan and execute research projects.

Course Outcome

At the completion of the course the student will be able to:

- knowledge of research concepts and processes and they will be able to critically evaluate different research methods.
- Make decisions and follow steps involved in designing and executing a research plan.
- Design, conduct, analyze and interpret findings of an empirical investigation.
- Read through and evaluate research papers in scientific journals
- Identify ethical concerns in a research study.

Course Contents

Introduction

Goals and Assumption of Scientific Methods

Scientific Method: Salient features

Limitations of the use of Scientific Method in Psychology

Types of Research: Basic & Applied: Qualitative & Quantitative

From theory to testable hypothesis

Variables and measurement

Sources of Research Ideas

Observation

Theory

Searching the literature

Personal Interest

How to Conduct Literature Review

Professional review

Literature review

Online literature search: Science Direct, Ebscohost, Blackwell-Synergy, Psycinfo,

Psycharticle, Medical Index, and other related data bases

Formulation of a Hypothesis

Importance of Hypothesis

Types of Hypothesis

Formulation of Hypothesis

Characteristics of a good Hypothesis

Research Process/Steps in Research

Formulating Problems Statement

Operational Definitions of Concepts, Variables and Constructs

Variables and Types of variables

Introduction and Review of Research Literature

Theoretical Framework

Quantitative Research Methods

Survey method

Experiments

Correlational studies

Qualitative Research Methods

Ethnographic studies

Case study

Grounded theory

Focus group

Interpretative phenomenology

Sampling Methods

Selecting Research Participants

Sample Planning

Define the population and sample

Probability Sampling Methods

Simple random sampling

Systematic random sampling

Stratified random sampling

Cluster sampling

Non-probability Sampling Methods

Quota sampling

Snow ball sampling

Purposive sampling

Convenience sampling

Ethics in Psychological Research

APA Ethical Guidelines for Research with Humans

Ethics in planning research

Ethics in execution of research: Informed consent, Deception, Coercion,

Anonymity, Risk assessment, Debriefing

Ethics in Writing and Publishing: Plagiarism, reporting results, credit of authorship, Copyrights

Recommended Books

- Breakwell, G. M. (2012). *Research methods in psychology* (4th ed.). Los Angeles: Sage.
- Bryman, A. (2011). *Quantitative data analysis with IBM SPSS 17, 18 and 19*. London: Routledge.
- Coakes, S. J. (2010). *SPSS version 17.0 for windows*. Australia: John Wiley & Sons.
- Cooper, H. (2010). *Research synthesis and meta analysis* (4th ed.). Los Angeles: Sage.
- Devellis, R. F. (2012). *Scale development* (3rd ed.). Los Angeles: Sage.
- Evans, A. N. (2011). *Methods in psychological research* (2nd ed.). Los Angeles: Sage.
- Flick, U. (2011). *Introducing research methodology*. Los Angeles: Sage.
- Gelfand, H. (2010). *Mastering APA style* (6th ed.). Los Angeles: Sage.
- Goodwin, C. J. (2002). *Research in psychology: Methods and design*. (3rd ed.). New York: John Wiley & Sons.
- Malhomes, V. (2010). *Applied research in child and adolescent development*. NY: Psychology Press.
- Mcbride, D. M. (2013). *The process of research in psychology* (2nd ed.). Los Angeles: Sage.
- McBurney, D. H. (1998). *Research methods* (4th ed.). Pacific Grove: Brooks/Cole Publishing Company.
- Mook, D. G. (2001). *Psychological research: The ideas behind the methods*. New York. John Wiley & Sons.
- Nestor, P. G. (2012). *Research methods in psychology*. Los Angless: Sage
- Nestor, P., & Schutt, R. (2012). *Research methods in psychology: Investigating human behavior*. USA: Sage Publication.
- Ray, W. J. (2000). *Methods toward a science of behavior and experience* (6th ed.). U.S.A: Wadsworth Thomson Learning.
- Reis, H. T. & Judd, C. M.(2000). *Handbook of research methods in social and personality psychology*. United Kingdom: Cambridge University Press.
- Shaughnessy, J. J., Zechmeister, E. B., & Zechmeister, J. S. (2005). *Research methods in psychology*. (5th ed.). Singapore: McGraw-Hill.
- Silverman, D. (2011). *Interpreting qualitative data* (4th ed.). Los Angeles: Sage.
- Silverman, D. (2011). *Qualitative research* (3rd ed.). Los Angeles: Sage.
- Stangor, C. (2011). *Research methods for the behavioral sciences* (4th ed.). Australia: WADSWORTH.
- Willig, C. (2010). *Introducing qualitative research in psychology* (2nd ed.). New Delhi: Tata McGraw Hill.
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