



Revised 2079/80

Far Western University
MPhil/PhD Programme
(For CPL, TESOL and English)

Advanced Research Methodology Course 2023

Course Code: CPL Ed./TESOL/ENG 612

Credit: 3

Course Title: Advanced Research Methodology

Teaching Hour: 48

Level: M.Phil

Time: 3hrs/week

Semester: I

Nature of Course: Theoretical and Practical

1. Course Description:

The Far Western University has introduced the Advanced Research Methodology course to enhance the capability of MPhil/ PhD research scholars. The course aims at developing students' aptitudes, knowledge, and inquiry skills for their engagement in academic research with profound technical and professional competence. The course provides the learners with an opportunity to deepen their understanding about methodological underpinnings, aligning with philosophies, paradigms and theories. Besides, the programme intends to build participants' navigating capacity for conducting research, with an appropriate choice of research designs, approaches, strategies, methods, tools, and techniques.

The course tries to (re)connect researchers with the local cosmologies, aligning them with wider worldviews. The aim of the course is to develop learners' critical thinking abilities and help them manifest their potentials through an independent researching process. In this programme the emphasis has been placed on building participants' capacity to work closely with the knowledge holders and build rapport with the intellectual community at local and global levels.

2. Course Objectives:



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The course is designed to attain the following objectives -

- a. To understand the underpinnings of research methodology and research design.
- b. To employ quantitative, qualitative, and mixed research for an academic engagement.
- c. To develop a proposal for conducting independent research as part of the university's research requirement.
- d. To enhance self-reflective skills for building arguments and develop critical awareness about socio-cultural realities.
- e. To provide students with an opportunity to understand synergetic relations between philosophies, paradigms, theories, and methodological choices.

Unit 1. Research Methodology and Research Design

- 1.1 Research methodology: Philosophical foundations (ontology, epistemology, axiology), local and global perspectives on research
- 1.2 Research paradigms and perspectives: Positivism, post-positivism, interpretivism, constructivism, criticalism, post-modernism and beyond
- 1.3 Research design/ strategy: Ethnography, phenomenology, auto ethnography, grounded theory, case study, narrative inquiry, content analysis, critical action research, participatory action research.

Unit 2. Quantitative research

- 2.1 Characteristics of quantitative research approach, quantitative research design, deductive reasoning, research hypothesis, quantitative research questions, identifying variables, placing theories.
- 2.2 Quantitative research method (survey), research procedures, quantitative research tools, data collection and analysis, quality control (validity and reliability).
- 2.3 Basic statistical analysis and software applications (SPSS)

Unit 3. Qualitative research

- 3.1 Characteristics of qualitative research approach, research design and strategies, placing theories
- 3.2 Research methods (interview, observation, focus group discussion, narrative inquiry, content analysis), research protocols
- 3.3 Data codification, analysis, interpretation, evaluation, and presentation, quality control and ethical



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considerations

Unit 4. Mixed methods

- 4.1 Characteristics of mixed methods approach
- 4.2 Mixed methods design and strategies: explanatory and exploratory mixed methods,
- 4.5 Research triangulations (data, methodology, theory and research)

Unit 5. Proposal Writing & Presentation

- 5.1 Research proposal: Choosing a topic, introduction, literature review, problem statement,
- 5.2 Philosophical foundations, paradigmatic choices, placing theories
- 5.3 Research methodology, research approach, research design, research method(s), purpose statement, research questions, population sampling, delimitations, research tools and protocols,
- 5.4 Data collection, codification, analysis, interpretation, evaluation, findings, discussions, conclusion/ reflections, ethical considerations, time plan, referencing (APA/ MLA).

3. Classroom delivery:

The course on Advanced Research Methodology constitutes philosophical foundations, paradigmatic alignments, and methodological choices with a view to developing students' competencies to carry out independent research for their academic purposes. Interactive and practical approaches will be employed for the delivery of the course contents. Day-wise course plans will provide a framework for the delivery of the course. Classrooms will draw on students' research experiences and their life-worlds. The teacher will serve as a resource person and will provide inputs for classroom discussions and seminar presentations. The students will be encouraged to engage in individual projects, assignments, and group work for establishing linkage between the course contents and their applications in academic research. Task based strategies will be utilized for academic rigor and in-depth engagements in book reviews, essay writing and project work for producing journal articles. The candidates will employ a collaborative process for



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the attainment of excellence in academic research, enhancing their competencies and skills.

Classroom instructions will take place in English, providing a reasonable space for translanguaging as and when needed.

4. Evaluation Scheme

1. Attendance/ participation	5%
2. Book review	5%
3. Class/ Seminar presentation	10 %
4. Course based essay (2000 words)	10%
5. Proposal writing (4000 words)/ presentation	20 %
6. Mid-term evaluation	10 %
7. End examinations	40%
Total:	<hr/> 100

References

Creswell, J & Creswell, J Research Design (5th Ed). The Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches (5th Ed). SAGE Publications, Inc.

Denzin, N & Lincoln, Y (Eds) (2018). The Sage Handbook of Qualitative Research (5th Ed). SAGE Publications, Inc.

Given L (Ed.) (2008). The Sage Encyclopedia of Qualitative Research Methods Vol. 1 & 2. SAGE Publications, Inc.

Johnson, R & Christensen, L (2014). Educational Research: Quantitative, Qualitative and Mixed Approaches (5th Ed). SAGE Publications, Inc.

Krishna, Isvara (1995). Samkhya Karika. Sri Ram Krishna Math, Madras.