

# SS2033: RESEARCH METHODS FOR BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCES

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## Effective Term

Semester A 2022/23

## Part I Course Overview

### Course Title

Research Methods for Behavioural Sciences

### Subject Code

SS - Social and Behavioural Sciences

### Course Number

2033

### Academic Unit

Social and Behavioural Sciences (SS)

### College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

### Course Duration

One Semester

### Credit Units

3

### Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

### Medium of Instruction

English

### Medium of Assessment

English

### Prerequisites

Nil

### Precursors

SS1101 Basic Psychology or SS2023 Basic Psychology I

### Equivalent Courses

SS2027 Social Statistics and Research Methods

### Exclusive Courses

SS2034 Research Methods in Social Sciences

## Part II Course Details

### Abstract

This course aims to enhance students' abilities in using quantitative methods commonly employed in social sciences. It provides students with training on computer application, instruction in statistical techniques, and skills and expertise in research methods for social science research. Students should be able to design and conduct social science research, analyze and interpret the results, and communicate the findings in a professional manner.

### Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

	CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Describe key concepts and major methodological approaches in behavioural sciences.	40	x	x	
2	Identify the merits as well as limitations of quantitative and qualitative research.	10	x		
3	Apply basic data management and reporting in research reports including tabulating and graphing data, and writing in APA format.	20		x	
4	Generate a research idea and develop a feasible research proposal.	30			x

#### A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

#### A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

#### A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

### Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)

	TLAs	Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Lecture	Research principles and statistical concepts for behavioural sciences will be explained in the lectures. Students can learn how to critically analyse and evaluate various research methodologies.	1, 2, 4	

2	Tutorials/Group Discussion	Tutorial readings are provided to help students acquire skills in reviewing literature critically and understand its related concepts. Students will also get familiar with the APA writing format. Through the group discussions, students can share their creative and innovative ideas in their research proposals.	1, 2, 4	
3	Computer Workshops	Computer workshops: hand-on exercises are provided to help students familiarize with the SPSS software, and other relevant programs for tabulating and graphing data. Students are required to generate their own data for the demonstration purpose.	1, 3	

**Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)**

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks (e.g. Parameter for GenAI use)
1	In-class Test	1, 2	30	
2	Group Research Proposal	3, 4	40	
3	Assignment on Statistical Analysis	1, 3	20	
4	Participation	1, 2, 3	10	

**Continuous Assessment (%)**

100

**Examination (%)**

0

**Assessment Rubrics (AR)****Assessment Task**

In-class Test

**Criterion**

ABILITY to UNDERSTAND key concepts and major methodological approaches

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

High

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

Significant

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

Moderate

**Marginal (D)**

Basic

**Failure (F)**

Not reaching marginal levels

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**Assessment Task**

Group Research Proposal

**Criterion**

ABILITY to GENERATE a research idea and DEVELOP a feasible proposal in APA format

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

High

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

Significant

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

Moderate

**Marginal (D)**

Basic

**Failure (F)**

Not reaching marginal levels

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**Assessment Task**

Assignment on Statistical Analysis

**Criterion**

ABILITY to CONDUCT statistical analyses and INTERPRET findings

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

High

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

Significant

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

Moderate

**Marginal (D)**

Basic

**Failure (F)**

Not reaching marginal levels

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**Assessment Task**

Participation

**Criterion**

ABILITY to UNDERSTAND key concepts and CONDUCT statistical analyses

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

High

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

Significant

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

Moderate

**Marginal (D)**

Basic

**Failure (F)**

Not reaching marginal levels

**Part III Other Information****Keyword Syllabus**

Issues of Measurement, Idea of Descriptive Statistics, Science, Values and Ethnics, Sampling and Survey Research, Questionnaire and Interviews, Experimentation, Qualitative Research Methods, Observational and Unobtrusive Methods

**Reading List****Compulsory Readings**

Title	
1	Gravetter, F., & Forzano, L. B. (2009). Research methods for the behavioral sciences. CA: Wadsworth.

**Additional Readings**

Title	
1	Babbie, E. R. (2007). The practice of social research. Belmont, California: Wadsworth.
2	Babbie, E. R. (2011). The basics of social research (5th ed.). Wadsworth, CA: Wadsworth Cengage Learning.
3	Babbie, E. R., Halley, F. S., Wagner, W. E., III, & Zaino, J. (2011). Adventures in social research: Data analysis using IBM SPSS statistics (7th ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press.
4	Healey, J. F. (2009). Statistics: A tool for social research (8th ed.). Belmont, CA: Thomson/Wadsworth.
5	Levin, J. (2011). Elementary statistics in social research: The essentials (3rd ed.). Boston: Allyn & Bacon.
6	Miller, D. C. (2002). Handbook of research design and social measurement: A text and reference book for the social and behavioral sciences. New York: Longman.
7	Neuman, W. L. (2011). Social research methods: Qualitative and quantitative approaches (7th ed.). Boston: Allyn & Bacon.
8	Ragin, C. C. (2011). Constructing social research: The unity and diversity of method (2nd ed.). Los Angeles: SAGE Publications.
9	Salkind, N. J. (2006). Exploring research. New Jersey: Prentice Hall.
10	Wagner, W. E. (2010). Using SPSS for social statistics and research methods (2nd ed.). Los Angeles: Pine Forge Press.

11	Wilkinson, D. (Ed.). (2003). The researcher' s toolkit: The complete guide to practitioner research. London: Routledge.
12	<a href="http://www.apastyle.org/electref.html">http://www.apastyle.org/electref.html</a>
13	<a href="http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/">http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/</a>
14	<a href="http://www.wadsworth.com/psychology_d/templates/student_resources/workshops/index.html">http://www.wadsworth.com/psychology_d/templates/student_resources/workshops/index.html</a>