

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES (NIAS)

PhD Research Methodology Course

January-April 2017

Course Objective

Designed as follow-up to the Foundations course, the Research Methodology course is the second mandatory course that all Ph.D. students at NIAS need to complete. However, there are important differences between the two courses. While the Foundations course sought to introduce you to the diverse fields of intellectual inquiry pursued by faculty members at NIAS and some of the basic tenets of interdisciplinary research, the Research Methodology course focuses on the central debates, practices and skills associated with doing research in different disciplines.

We will begin by discussing enterprise of research, history, and theory of methodology, academic writing practices and then move on to lectures that focus on specific methodological practices from the relevant disciplines to be taught collaboratively by the institute's faculty members. A more important goal of this course is to guide you towards preparing a rough draft of your Ph.D. thesis proposal. Therefore, during this course, you need to be working with your primary supervisor on various aspects of the thesis proposal. You may also consult with relevant scholars within the institute or outside of NIAS who could be your potential thesis committee members.

The following issues need to be considered by students:

The course is quite rigorous and will consume a lot of your time. Please be considered in a number of courses you want to take this semester. It is not advisable to take more than 2 courses (including the RM course) during this semester.

Please request and insist your thesis supervisor to offer a course focusing on literature and research methods relevant to your dissertation research. This will be helpful to do well on various aspects of your thesis proposal.

Attendance is mandatory for this course in addition to spending at least 10 hours per week of dedicated reading. Please email the instructor (rethinaraj72@gmail) with a copy to Ms. Sandhya if you are unable to attend a session. If your absent for more than two sections, 5% of the total grade will be deducted. All assignments should be sent to the course coordinator, everybody in the class, and copied to Ms. Sandhya as well.

For public holidays that fall on a Tuesday, make-up classes will be arranged to compensate for the lost days.

Course Title	Research Methodology
Course No	201
Credits	3
Time Period	January to April 2017
Course Coordinator	T.S. Gopi Rethinaraj
Faculty	NIAS Faculty
Evaluation	Assignments, Proposal Development and Presentations
Venue	Conference Hall 1

LECTURE DISCUSSIONS

Sl No	Date	Time	Topic	Faculty
1	January 10	10.00--12.30	Introduction to the Course	T.S. Gopi Rethinaraj
2	January 17	10.00--12.30	Ethics, Plagiarism and Integrity	T.S. Gopi Rethinaraj
3	January 24	10.00--12.30	Philosophy of Thinking and Writing	Sundar Sarukkai
4	January 31	10.00--12.30	Research Methods in Art History	S Settar
5	February 7	10.00--12.30	Research Tools for Heritage Studies	M B Rajani
6	February 14	10.00--12.30	Research Methods in Archaeo-metallurgy	Sharada Srinivasan
7	February 21	10.00--12.30	Research Methods in Consciousness Studies	Nithin Nagaraj
8	February 28	10.00--12.30	Research Methods in Social Sciences	Shivali Tukdeo
9	March 7	10.00--12.30	Life Sciences Research Methods	Sindhu Radhakrishna
10	March 14	10.00--12.30	Research Methods in Political Science	Anshuman Behera
11	March 21	10.00--12.30	Data Gathering and Survey Design	Hippu S K Nathan
12	March 28	10.00--12.30	Research Methods in Physical Sciences	Janaki Balakrishnan
14	April 4	10.00--12.30	Qualitative Research Methods	Carol Upadhyia
15	April 11	10.00--12.30	Ethnographic Research Methods	Carol Upadhyia
16	April 18	9.30--1.00	Student Final Presentation	

ASSIGNMENTS

Please take the assignments seriously as they help you in gradually shaping the rough draft of the proposal.

- Assignment #1: Research Question and Context (~2 pages) [10%]
- Assignment#2: Literature Review (~4 pages) [10%]
- Assignment #3: Data, Methods, and Project Design (~8 pages) [15%]
- Assignment#4: Significance of Project and Roadmap (~6 pages) [15%]
- Thesis Proposal Draft: ~20 pages [30%]

In all your writing assignments, follow appropriate guidelines for source citation, paraphrasing etc to avoid plagiarism charges. Plagiarism is the worst form of academic infraction which can result in personal embarrassment and serious penalties. In rare cases, they also warrant expulsion from the PhD programme.

BASIS FOR GRADES

- Class Attendance: 10%
- Presentation: 10%
- Assignments: 40%
- Draft of Thesis Proposal: 40%

OFFICE HOURS

The course coordinator (Gopi) has no fixed office hours and is mostly around at the institute from 10 AM to 5 PM. Feel free to stop by his office anytime or catch up during the tea breaks and lunch time at the canteen.

REQUIRED/RECOMMENDED READINGS

Wayne Booth, Gregory Colomb and Joseph Williams. *The Craft of Research*. Third Edition. University of Chicago Press. 2008 [PDF copy provided]

John W. Creswell. *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches*. Second Edition. Sage Publications. 2003 [PDF copy provided]

Kate L. Turabian. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. Eighth Edition. University of Chicago Press. 2013 [PDF copy of Sixth Edition provided, but instructor recommends all students to have a personal copy of the Eighth Edition. Amazon India delivers copy in less than a week.]