

**Ambedkar University Delhi**

**Course Outline**

**Winter Semester (January- July 2019)**

<b>School:</b>	School of Liberal Studies			
<b>Programme with title:</b>	MA Sociology			
<b>Semester to which offered: (II/ IV/ VI)</b>	2 Semester			
<b>Course Title:</b>	Social Research			
<b>Credits:</b>	4 Credits			
<b>Course Code (new):</b>	<b>SLS2SC006</b>			
<b>Course Code (old):</b>				
<b>Type of Course:</b>	Compulsory	yes	Cohort	MA Sociology
	Elective	NO	Cohort	

**For SUS only** (Mark an X for as many as appropriate):

1. Foundation (Compulsory)
2. Foundation (Elective)
3. Discipline (Compulsory)
4. Discipline (Elective)
5. Elective

**Course Coordinator and Team:** Urfat Anjem Mir (CC) Smita Tiwari Jassal

**Email of course coordinator:** urfat@aud.ac.in

**Pre-requisites:** NA

**Aim:**

This course on Social Research aims to orient students towards reflexive thinking and critical engagement with both the social everyday and the re-searchable in that social. This course pursues seemingly two goals. The intellectual goal is to understand the epistemological foundations of the major research traditions in the social sciences. The practical goal is to help

students develop rigorous and workable research techniques and designs for their theses and dissertations.

### **Brief description of modules:**

The first section is focussed on the philosophical and epistemological foundations, specifically; the way different perspectives and methods emerged in sociological research.

The second section is about, what is re-searchable, and how to formulate a research problem? Research Design, Conceptualization, Operationalization and the issues of Measurement would be discussed in this section.

The third section covers certain methods and techniques of collecting and analysing the data. Together with facilitating knowledge and discussions around techniques of doing research through the use of readings in which a particular research method / technique is used, the students would also be made to do practical exercises. This course also discusses questions around ethics, authenticity and representation in social research.

### Reading List:

- Russell B. H. 2008. *Research Methods in Anthropology: Qualitative and Quantitative Approach*, New Delhi: Rawat Publications, (selected chapter).
- Sayer, Andrew. (1992). *Method in Social Science*, Routledge. (Selected text).
- Emile Durkhiem, (1982). *The Rules of Sociological Method*. Translated by W.D Halls. New York: Free press.
- Srivastava, V.K. (2004). *Methodology and Fieldwork*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press Selected *Chapter*
- Jodie O'Brien *Sociology as an Epistemology of Contradiction Sociological Perspectives*, Vol. 52, No. 1 (Spring 2009), pp. 5-22
- Babbie, E. 1998. *The Practice of Social Research*, London, Washington, Toronto: Wardsworth Publishing Company. (Selected Chapter).
- Clifford Geertz (1973). *The Interpretation of Cultures*. New York: *Basic Books, Inc., Publishers* ( Selected Chapter)
- Mathew B Miles and A Micheal Haberman (1994) *Qualitative Data Anlysis*. Sage Publications. (Selected Chapter).
- Joseph F. Healey (2009): *Statistics: A Tool for social research*. Wordsworth Cengage Learning. (Selected Chapter).

A detailed reading list will be handed out in class.

### Tentative Assessment schedule with details of weightage:

S.No	Assessment	Date/period in which Assessment will take place	Weightage
1	Class participation	<i>Spread over semester surprise class activity of 5 percent weightage each</i>	20%
2	Assignment 1	<i>Second week of February</i>	30%
3	Assignment 2	<i>Fourth week of March</i>	30%
4	Assignment 3 Reflection on a research article	April 30,2019 by 4pm	20%

### Assignments:

1. Class participation: 20% (There will be four surprise class activities announced in class. Those who miss those activities shall not be graded for this component). The objective of this assignment component is to ensure regular attendance in class and active participation/ engagement during the transaction of the course.
2. Second Assignment of Literature Review of 1500 words will be of 30 % weightage Due date : **9th of February 2019 by 4pm.**
3. Third Assignment: Presentation on a brief research proposal on any topic of your choice and you will have to especially justify the method through which the topic can be studied. 30% for oral presentation in the presence of fellow class mates. The students shall be required to share a copy of their research proposal with everyone in the class one day prior to making presentation. This will be a brief write up of 700 words only
4. Reflection on an article from the reading material of the course outline. The purpose of this assignment is to read and reflect upon one research study which has used a particular kind of research technique. Commenting on the nature and characteristics of the technique used in the article in 1000 words. Weightage: 20% **deadline for submission: April 30, 2109 by 4pm**

### Policy on attendance and class participation:

**Attendance:** As MA students you are expected to take responsibility for your own education, which includes class attendance. Regular absence from class is quite likely to reflect on your ability to participate in class and get a 'reasonable grade'. As the voice and participation of each individual student in class is crucial to collective classroom dynamics and flow, individual absence will also have a negative effect on the group. Hence, a regular record of your attendance will be maintained. Formal recording of attendance will not reflect directly on your grades. However, twice during the semester (mid-semester and end-semester), a student whose attendance falls below 50% will be informed about her/his/their absence record.

Please note that attendance is linked to in-class participation, which has a formal grading component of 20 percent, the dates for which will not be pre-announced. Lastly, if you are unable

to attend class because of some emergency or difficulty (medical or otherwise), you are expected to inform us immediately and communicate the reason for your absence. Making up in-class participation is not allowed in this class, unless accompanied by a 'valid reason' (which has to be promptly communicated within 7 days of the emergency or difficulty), which may or may not require evidence and documentation. Please also note that you will need to submit an application in case of prolonged absence from class as well as failure to submit assignment on scheduled date to MA PC, CC and EAC member.