

Ambedkar University, Delhi

Proposal for Launch of a Course

(To be approved by the Board of Studies and the Academic Council)

[Attach additional pages as necessary.]

1. **Title of the Course:** Experiments in Psychology
2. **Name of the School/ Centre proposing the course:** School of Undergraduate Studies
3. **Programme(s) which this course can be a part of:** BA Honours Programmes
4. **Level at which the course can be offered:** Undergraduate level
5. **If it is a stand-alone course, how can it be scheduled:** (e.g., as a summer/winter course, semester-long course, regular or evening course, weekend course, etc) Not Applicable
6. **Proposed date** (semester) of launch: Monsoon semester, 2012
7. **Course team** (coordinator, team members etc): Bibinaz Thokchom
8. **Rationale for the course** (Statement of maximum 250 words. Remark on the institutional vision, how it fits into the programme(s), availability of literature and resources, expertise in AUD faculty or outside, how it would be beneficial to those who take this course, etc):

Experiments in Psychology is a course focused on one type of data collection method through conducting experiments on live subjects in order to understand human functioning better. Some of the distinctive features of Psychological experiments include validation of explanatory theories, ascertaining functional relationship and assessing the substantive effectiveness of manipulation by using controls. The course attempts to render preliminary exposure to students to laboratory and field experiments as a means to gather facts about human behaviors that link inductive and deductive principles.

Objective and systematic approach to gathering information about behaviors that will pave a foundation for students to perform scientific research in their later educational expedition fits very well in AUD's strive for becoming a research oriented university.

9. Write the categories applicable for the course from those given below:

- a. Foundation (compulsory/ optional)
- b. **Discipline** (core required for B A Psychology Honours/ core optional for...../ elective for all other discipline)
- c. Special interest Course (optional)
- d. **Practical**/ Dissertation/ Internship/ Seminar courses (**compulsory**/ optional)
- e. Any other

10. Brief (max. 250 words) course description:

This is a 4 credit discipline compulsory course to be taken by students who wish to learn the experimental method and its application in Psychology. Students will conduct 4 experiments in the field of Psychology from the domains of learning, cognition, social psychology and child development. In the process they will be provided an understanding of central concepts of the field such as designing an experiment, variables, hypothesis etc. Each experiment will be written up in the form of a report. The evaluation of the course will be on the basis of the written reports submitted throughout the semester and an oral examination.

11. Specific requirements on the part of students who can be admitted to this course:

(Prerequisites or prior knowledge level etc) Students who passed 3rd semester in Psychology major and any other discipline

12. Course details: (Course objectives, contents, reading list, instructional design, schedule of course transaction on the semester calendar with a brief note on each module)

Course objectives: To enable students to

1. Use objective method of data collection
2. Effectively use manipulation and control of certain variables that will ascertain a functional relationship between selected variables
3. Apply knowledge of using this method in practical laboratory and field situations

13. Instructional design:

Lectures and practical exercises in the laboratory

Course Content:

Module 1: Introduction to Experimental Psychology?

This module will draw a sketch of the movement of Experimental Psychology in the disciplinary history, highlight and discuss some distinctive features of conducting experiments in human subjects including use of theories, establishing hypothesis and

designing experiments. The module also critically looks at the ethicality and contemporary understanding of this method.

Module 2:Experiment no.1

An experiment will be designed on the area of learning process based on existing learning theories and will be practically demonstrated and exercised in the class.

Module 3: Experiment no. 2

This module will introduce the students to an experiment human cognition.

Module 4: Experiment no. 3

This module will take students to another level of conducting experiment in groups in the field of social psychology

Module 5: Experiment no. 4

Another group experiment on child development will be practically taught by allowing students to expose to the field.

References:

1. Experimental Psychology by Kling & Riggs
2. Relevant references will be provided pertaining to the kinds of experiments taken up from semester to semester.

14. **Assessment methodology:** Written report submitted throughout semester, class exercises and viva in the end of semester.

15. **Proposed enrolment ceiling** (max. number of students to be admitted): _____20-25

16. **Special needs in terms of expertise of faculty, facilities, requirements in terms of studio, lab, clinic, library, classroom and others instructional space, linkages with external agencies (e.g., with field-based organizations, hospital) etc:**

Faculty teaching this course should have good knowledge about the methods used Psychology discipline. The designated laboratory where different apparatus used for various experiments is at utmost requirement. This will help in exposing students to important Psychological laboratory experiments.

Bibinaz Thokchom

Signature(s) of Course Coordinator(s)

Note:

1. Modifications on the basis of deliberations in the Board of Studies may be incorporated and the revised proposal should be submitted to the Academic Council.
2. In certain special cases, where a course does not belong to any particular school, the proposal may be submitted directly to the Academic Council.

Recommendation of the Board of Studies:

The proposal for course entitledwas discussed by the Board of Studies in itsmeeting held on.....and has been approved in the present form.

Signature of the Dean of the School