

School of Law, Governance and Citizenship

Ambedkar University, Delhi

Course Outline: Research Methodology

Course Code: SLG2LPFC007

Title: Research Methodology

Cohort for which it is compulsory: MA 3rd year SLGC

Cohort for which it is elective: NONE

No of Credits: 4

Semester and Year Offered: 3rd Semester course for M.A 2nd year students (Monsoon Semester 2018)

Course Coordinator and Team: Pooja Satyogi and Malabika Pal

Email of course coordinator: psatyogi@aud.ac.in, malabikapal@gmail.com

Pre-requisites: None

Course Aim: The Research Methods and Writing Course is unique to SLGC and has been designed to both impart knowledge about research methods in the social sciences and to equip MA students to begin thinking about their dissertations. Additionally, this course will enable the students to understand the nuances of formulating a research problem, doing a review of literature, work on a methodology of their own theoretical questions and prepare a research proposal. Since AUD has dissertation writing for MA students and within that its newer schools are interdisciplinary, this course sits well with the university's vision of interdisciplinary pedagogy.

A brief description of the Course:

- **Summary:** This course seeks to prepare 3rd semester MA students to begin thinking about their dissertations and will be guided towards preparing their research proposal
- **Objectives:** This course will enable the students to understand the methods of social science research and law research methods.
- **Overall structure:** The course is divided into 4 modules: Law research method; Anthropological Method; Historical Method, and Basic Statistical Reasoning

Research Methods and Proposal Writing

Course Aims and Objectives

- To enable MA 3rd Semester students to formulate a research problem, which they can be further work on to make a research proposal for their MA dissertation.
- To familiarize the students to the fundamentals of social science research, with an emphasis on anthropological and historical methods
- To enable the students to integrate basic statistical method with social science research

Syllabus with List of Readings

Module 1: Law Research Methods

Weeks 1, 2 and 3

In the first week of this module, students will be acquainted with a collected sample of research proposals compiled by the instructor. This week will be devoted to understand proposal writing as a particular genre of academic writing.

In week 2 and 3, we will move to understanding some aspects of Doctrinal Legal Research.

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| | <p>Readings:</p> <p>Week 1</p> <p>Discussion around 3-4 Research Proposals, which will be circulated by the instructor in the week before the start of the course.</p> <p>Week 2</p> <p>Bradley Wendel, “Explanation in Legal Scholarship: The inferential structure of Doctrinal Analysis”, 96 Cornell Law Review (2011)</p> <p>Terry Hutchinson, “Defining and Describing what we do: Doctrinal Legal Research”, 17 Deakin Law Review (2012)</p> <p>Week 3</p> <p>Joseph Raz, <i>Between Authority and Interpretation</i> (2009), Ch. 9</p> <p>Aulis Aarnio, <i>Essays on the Doctrinal Study of Law</i> (2011), Ch. 18</p> |
| <p>Module 2: Anthropology and the Writing of Ethnograph (3 Weeks)</p> <p>Weeks 4, 5 and 6</p> | <p>This section of the course will introduce the students to the method of participant observation, which forms the method for anthropological enquiry. It will explicate that the field is not a readily mobilizable and transparent site from which data may be simply mined. Through a study of what are now classic texts in the discipline of anthropology, this module will explain the work that description does in any ethnographic writing, the work of patience in allowing the field to open itself to the</p> |

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| | <p>anthropologist, the sheer mental and physical endurance required to conduct long term fieldwork, and grappling with conditions of incoherence and flux which both the field animates for the anthropologist as well the anthropologist projects onto the informants. The latter part of the module is directed towards an analysis of contemporary ethnographies, which deal with similar issues (sexual assault and industrial-chemical disasters), but present very distinct kinds of methodological and legal questions.</p> |
| <p>Week 4: Fieldwork and practice of writing field notes and ethnography</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Geertz, Clifford. "Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture." <i>Turning Points in Qualitative Research: Tying Knots in a Handkerchief</i> 3 (1973): 143-168. 2. Marcus, George. "Afterword: Ethnography Between the Virtue of Patience and the Anxiety of Belatedness Once Coevalness is Embraced." <i>Social Analysis</i> 57.1 (2013): 143 3. Sjørølev, Inger. "Boredom, Rhythm, and the Temporality of Ritual: Recurring Fieldwork in the Brazilian Candomblé." <i>Social Analysis</i> 57. 1 (2013): 95. <p>Additional Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caton, Steven Charles. <i>Yemen Chronicle: An Anthropology of War and Mediation</i>. Macmillan, 2005. • Marcus, George E., and Dick Cushman. "Ethnographies as Texts." <i>Annual review of Anthropology</i> 11. 1 (1982): 25-69. |

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| <p>Week 5: The encounter with the field and the ethical challenges it throws for an anthropologist?</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Crapanzano, Vincent. <i>Tuhami: Portrait of a Moroccan</i>. University of Chicago Press, 2013. 2. Goffman, Erving. "Footing". In <i>Forms of talk</i>. University of Pennsylvania Press, 1981: 124-160 3. Rosaldo, Renato. "Introduction: Grief and a Headhunter's Rage" in <i>Culture and Truth: The Remaking of Cultural Analysis</i>, 1989. |
| <p>Week 6</p> <p>In this week, we will focus on either of the two sets of readings to understand the place of law in working with law. We will examine the interplay between the temporal and spatial dimensions of fieldwork, which throws up specific kinds of challenges to any ethnographic of law.</p> <p>First Set: Sexual Assault</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Second Set: Industrial Disasters</p> | <p>Set One</p> <p>Baxi, Pratiksha, <i>Public Secrets of Law: Rape Trials in India</i>. New Delhi: Oxford University press, 2014.</p> <p>Mulla, Sameena. <i>The Violence of Care: Rape victims, Forensic Nurses, and Sexual Assault Intervention</i>. NYU Press, 2014.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Set Two</p> <p>Fortun, Kim. <i>Advocacy after Bhopal: Environmentalism, Disaster, New Global Orders</i>. University of Chicago Press, 2009.</p> <p>Petryna, Adriana. <i>Life Exposed: Biological Citizens after</i></p> |

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| | <i>Chernobyl</i> . Princeton University Press, 2013. |
| Module 3: History and Historiography | <p>The principal aim of this module is to explicate the production of a historical problem and its categories of analysis. This module will the students to understand how “sources” are mobilized to formulate an argument in as much as it will problematize the idea of the source itself. Hence, the emphasis on memory and its rendering in the form of historiography. The emphasis in this module will also be on understanding of micro-legal histories.</p> |
| Week 7: What is history and how to write it? | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carr, Edward Hallett. "What is History? New York: Alfred A." (1962). 2. Ginzburg, Carlo. <i>Clues, Myths, and the Historical Method</i>. Johns Hopkins University Press, 2013 <p>Additional Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bloch, Marc. <i>The Historian's Craft</i>, with an Introduction by Peter Burke: Manchester University Press, 2004 • Ginzburg, Carlo. "Checking the Evidence: The Judge and the Historian." <i>Critical inquiry</i> 18.1 (1991): 79-92. |

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| Week 8: Micro histories | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Amin, Shahid. Approver's Testimony, Judicial Discourse: The Case of Chauri Chaura. <i>Subaltern Studies V</i> (1987): 166-202 2. Burton, Antoinette. "Conjugality on Trial: The Rukhmabai Case and the Debate on Indian Child-marriage in Late-Victorian Britain." <i>Disorders in the Court: Trials and Sexual Conflict at the Turn of the Century</i> <p>Additional reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kolsky, Elizabeth. 2010. "'The Body Evidencing the Crime': Rape on Trial in Colonial India, 1860–1947." <i>Gender & History</i> 22, no. 1:109-130. • Hardiman, David. 1985. "From Custom to Crime: The Politics of Drinking in Colonial South Gujarat." <i>Subaltern Studies</i> 4: 165-228. • Pande, Ishita. 2013. "Phulmoni's Body: The Autopsy, the Inquest and the Humanitarian Narrative on Child Rape in India." <i>South Asian History and Culture</i> 4, no. 1: 9-30. |
| Week 9: Writing Contemporary Histories | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Arunima, G. "Ayodhya Verdict: Bad Theology, Without Justice." <i>Economic & Political Weekly</i> 45, no. 41 (2010): 9. 2. Mehta, Deepak. "The Ayodhya dispute: Law's imagination and the functions of the status quo." <i>Violence and the Quest for Justice in South Asia</i> (2018): 291 3. Menon, Nivedita. "The Ayodhya Judgment: |

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| | <p>What Next?." <i>Economic and Political Weekly</i> (2011): 81-89.</p> <p>4. Mehta, Deepak. "The Ayodhya dispute: The absent mosque, state of emergency and the jural deity." <i>Journal of Material Culture</i> 20, no. 4 (2015): 397-414.</p> <p>Additional Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mehta, Deepak. "Naming the deity, naming the city: Rama and Ayodhya." <i>South Asia Multidisciplinary Academic Journal</i> 12 (2015). |
| <p>Module 4</p> <p>Statistical and Quantitative Methods in Research</p> | <p>This section of the course aims to equip students with quantitative methods that would help them to engage in interdisciplinary research. The course is of t introductory level with the aim of familiarizing students with quantitative techniques so that they are able to better understand research, which uses these tools and also to enable them to do independent research. This section will also use a social science text (Mrinal Satish) that has used statistical analysis to demonstrate how a social science research project may be enriched with statistical explication.</p> |
| <p>Weeks 10, 11, 12</p> | <p>Introduction to Type of Data:</p> <p>Quantitative and Qualitative; Primary and Secondary; Cross-Section and Time Series; Discrete and Continuous; Sample and Population</p> <p>Descriptive Statistics:</p> <p>Measures of Central Tendency: Mean (Arithmetic,</p> |

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| | <p>Geometric and Harmonic), Median and Mode</p> <p>Measures of Dispersion: Range, Variance and Standard Deviation; Coefficient of Variation</p> <p>Graphical Representation of Data: Tabular Representation; Frequency Distribution, Line and Bar Chart, Pie chart and Histogram</p> <p>Correlation and regression: Introduction</p> <p>Hypothesis Testing:</p> <p>Basic Definitions; Type I, Type II Error, Power of test; How to conduct a statistical test; Test Decision using p-value; test decision using Confidence Intervals; Examples of Gauss Test, t-Test; Chi Square test.</p> |
| | <p>References:</p> <p>Satish, Mrinal. <i>Discretion, Discrimination and the Rule of Law- Reforming Rape Sentencing in India</i>, Cambridge University Press (2017) Chapter 4, Appendices 1-5.</p> |

4. Assessment Methodology and Pedagogy

Instructional design: This is a writing intensive course since it is driven with the ambition to assist the students in formulating their research proposals. It will require weekly reflections, which will need to be written and submitted to the instructor in a timely manner.

Assessment:

50% assessment will to be undertaken by the Course Instructors. The break up will be:

10% Class Participation and Attendance

10%*4: Class Assignments

The thesis supervisor will grade the remaining 50% of the assessment, and this will principally be about the writing of the research proposal. The break up will be:

10%: Meetings with the Supervisor

10%: Research Problem

10%: Literature Review

10%: Methodology

10%: Training and Preparedness, along with a section on academic contribution of the work.