

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI
INSTITUTE OF ANTHROPOLOGY, GENDER AND AFRICAN STUDIES
ACADEMIC YEAR: 2017/2018
SEMESTER: SECOND

DEGREE: MASTER OF ARTS IN GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES
COURSE: NDG 603: SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH METHODS

LECTURER: Dr. Khamati Shilabukha

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Objectives

At the end of this course, students should be able to:

- (a) Demonstrate an understanding of the philosophy, principles and methodology of social science research.
- (b) Prepare and defend a proposal on their chosen topic of research.
- (c) Carry out an independent research on their chosen topic and present the findings in an examinable thesis for the award of a Master of Arts Degree in Gender and Development Studies of the University of Nairobi.

Mode of Delivery

Lectures, class discussions, as well as group and individual presentations.

Course Content

1. The nature of social science research

- Concepts and Meanings in research methodology
- Difference between Research Methods and Research Methodology
- Primary and policy research
- Data
- Discrete and continuous data
- Information
- Variables

2. Measurement

- Defining measurement
- Social science variables
- The nature and structure of measurement in social science
- Levels of measurement
 - Measurement errors
- Meaning & the need for social research
- Context of social research methods
- The messiness of social research
- The Research problem

NB:

http://lib.oup.com.au/he/study_skills/samples/walter_socialresearch3e_sample.pdf
the first class.

Please

**visit:
before**

3. Social research strategies

- Theory & Research
- Epistemological considerations
- Ontological considerations

4. Research designs

- Criteria in social research (reliability, replication and validity)
- Design types (Experimental, Cross-sectional, longitudinal, comparative and case study)

Please visit: <http://www.nova.edu/ssss/QR/QR17-1/terrell.pdf> on mixed methods design before class

5. The nature of Quantitative research

- Concepts and their measurements
- Critique of Quantitative research
- Reliability and validity in QR
- Critique of QR

Please visit: http://www.sagepub.com/sites/default/files/upm-binaries/36869_muijs.pdf before class

6. Qualitative research

- Concepts of qualitative research
- Reliability & validity in QL
- Critique of QL

Please visit: <http://www.ccs.neu.edu/course/is4800sp12/resources/qualmethods.pdf> before class

7. Mixed methods research

- Approaches to mixed methods research
- Arguments against mixed methods (embedded and paradigm arguments)

Please visit: https://pcmh.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/attachments/MixedMethods_032513comp.pdf

8. Sampling

- Conceptualization
- Types: Probability and non-probability
- Qualities of probability and non-probability sampling
- Sampling error, sample size and limits to generalization

Please visit: <http://www.nss.gov.au/> and <http://www.officialstatistics.files.wordpress.com/2010/05/bok03.pdf>

9. Data collection methods

- Quantitative (Survey, structured interviews, content analysis and structured observations)
- Qualitative (Focus group discussions, case narratives, key informant interviews)

Please visit: http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2002/nsf02057/nsf02057_4.pdf

10. Data Analysis

- Quantitative(univariate, bivariate, multivariate and statistical significance)
 - Coding in quantitative analysis
- Qualitative (analytic reduction, grounded theory, thematic and narrative analysis)
 - Coding in qualitative analysis

11. Internet research

- Internet as an object of analysis
- Collecting data on internet
- Online ethnography
- Online focus group discussions
- Online personal interviews

12. Ethical issues in social science research

- Ethical principles
- Ethics and the issue of quality
- The difficulties of ethical decision-making

13. Designing a research proposal.

Each student is expected to come up with a researchable topic and undertake to write a background (whole of chapter one) to the chosen topic.

Reading Texts

Babbie, Earl 2007. The practice of social research, 12th ed. Belmont, CA: Wordsworth.

Bernard, Russel H. 2000. Research methods in anthropology: Qualitative and quantitative. London: Sage.

Bryman, Alan 2012. Social research methods, 4th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Dooley, David 2001. Social research methods, 4 ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hall.

Frankfort-Nachmias, Chava and Nachmias, David 2005. Research methods in the social sciences, reprint. London: Arnold.

Green, Judith and Thorogood, Nicki 2009. Qualitative methods for health research, 2nd ed. London: Sage.

Evaluation

CATS - 40%

Final Examination - 60%

PASS MARK: 50%

Note: Students are encouraged to read from other sources relevant to the listed topics of study including but not limited to internet materials.