

MAULANA AZAD NATIONAL URDU UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
PAPER NO. : I
PAPER TITLE: INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH METHODS

Course Objective: The course will be offered in the first semester of the MPhil and PhD programmes and orient students to the basics of doing research in English Language and Literature. The course will enable participants to learn the basics of conducting research as well as the fundamentals of research writing.

Internal Assessment: 30 Marks; Each internal carries 10 marks

- 1 oral presentation during Unit 2 (each student may make a presentation on the theory and practice of one research method)
- 1 written essay to be completed by the end of Unit 4 (either an analytical or argumentative essay on pilot data in the case of ELT researchers and one text in the case of Literature researchers)
- 1 test based on the use of style manuals

Syllabus

Unit 1

What is research?

- As part of this unit, students will read upto three studies* conducted in English Language and Literature and learn to identify:
 - Research questions and objectives
 - Research material (data) and method
 - Arguments/ Findings/ Conclusions

* Agnihotri, Ramakant. "Multilinguality and the Teaching of English in India". *English and Foreign Languages Journal*, vol.1, no. 1, 2010.

Sunder Rajan, Rajeswari. "Life after Rape: Narrative, Rape and Feminism". *Women Studies in India: A Reader*. Ed. Mary E. John. New Delhi: Penguin, 2008.

Mathur, Suchitra. "The Superhero goes Native: 'Translating' Spiderman for an Indian Audience". *Translation and Postcolonialities*. Ed. Vijaya Guttal and Suchitra Mathur. New Delhi: Orient Blackswan, 2013.

- Introduction to INFONET, INFLIBNET, JSTOR, Project Muse, ERNET etc.

Unit 2

Designing and Conducting Research: Survey of methods

- Qualitative Research Methods (Interview, Case Study, Observation, Ethnography)
- Quantitative Research Methods (Basic Statistical Concepts: Normal Distribution, Mean/Median/Mode)
- Historical Methods (Archival, Oral History)
- Textual Analysis and Discourse Analysis

Unit 3

Basics of research writing

- Drafting a proposal
- Developing a literature review (review and evaluation of existing literature)

- Writing an analytical/ argumentative essay
- Ethics of Research and Plagiarism Check

Unit 4

Dynamics of research writing

- Structuring a research thesis
- Formatting the thesis
- Using the MLA/APA/Chicago manuals of style (citation practices: in-text citations; bibliography; footnotes and endnotes)
- Research and Information Technology: Use of multimedia tools and citation of electronic sources

Unit 5

Commenting/ Evaluating/ Critiquing

- Critiquing and evaluating an essay
- Giving peer feedback
- Editing an essay based on feedback

Suggested Texts:

Bachman, Lyle. *Statistical Analysis for Language Assessment*. Cambridge: CUP, 2004.

Griffin, Gabriele. *Research Methods for English Studies*. Jaipur: Rawat Publications, 2007.

Klarer, Mario. *An Introduction to Literary Studies*. Third Edition. London: Routledge, 2013.

Kothari, C.R. *Research Methodology: Methods and Techniques*. New Delhi: New Age Publications, 2009.

Mackay, Alison & Susan Gass. *Second Language Research Methodology and Design*. Mahwah, N.J: Lawrence Erlbaum, 2005.

Nunan, David. *Research Methods in Language Learning*. Cambridge: CUP, 1992

Patton, Micheal Quinn. *Qualitative Research and Evaluation Methods*. Fourth Edition. Thousand Oaks: Sage, 2015.

Quadri, Syed Mohammed Haseebuddin Quadri. *The Craft of Language and Literary Research*. New Delhi: Atlantic Publishers, 2001.

MLA Handbook – Eighth Edition

Chicago Manual of Style – 16th Edition

APA Style Guide – 6th Edition

Web Resources:

Purdue Online Writing Lab <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>