

Course Code	Course Name	Credits
26HS555	RESEARCH METHODOLOGY IN HISTORY	04

Course Objectives

- To understand the meaning, scope, significance, and types of historical research, and examine history as a discipline with debates on objectivity and subjectivity.
- To study research methodology, historical methods, source classification, and issues related to archival research, bias, and ethics.
- To develop skills in identifying research problems, designing studies, and conducting literature reviews.
- To gain knowledge of data collection, analysis, and academic writing in historical research.
- To cultivate critical thinking and interpretative skills for analyzing historical narratives and evaluating competing historiographical perspectives.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course it is intended that a student will be able to:

- Identify key concepts, types, and methods of historical research.
- Explain research methods, source types, and debates on objectivity and subjectivity in history.
- Apply research methods, source criticism, and ethical practices in historical research.
- Analyze research problems, gaps in literature, archival sources, and biases in historical data.
- Develop research work such as dissertations, interpretations, and academic presentations.

Unit 1 - Research in History (12 Hrs.)

Meaning, definition, Scope and significance of historical research, Types of historical research: descriptive, analytical, comparative, interpretative; History as a discipline: science vs. art debate; Objectivity vs. subjectivity in history (Rankean tradition vs. postmodern critiques).

Unit 2 – Research Methodology, Sources and Ethics (12 Hrs.)

Meaning and application of research methodology; Historical method: heuristics, external and internal criticism, synthesis; Classification of sources: primary, secondary, oral, visual, digital; Use and limitations of literary and archival sources; Research ethics: academic honesty, integrity, authorship norms; Plagiarism: meaning, types (direct, mosaic, self-plagiarism), consequences; Avoiding plagiarism: paraphrasing, citation practices, use of plagiarism detection tools.

Unit 3 - Research Problem, Design, and Literature Review (12 Hrs.)

Identification and formulation of research problem; Research objectives, hypothesis, and research questions; Research design: meaning, types, and functions; Literature review: purpose, methods, and critical evaluation; Historiography and identification of research gaps; Theoretical frameworks and conceptual clarity.

Unit 4 – Archival Research, Bias, and Interpretation (12 Hrs.)

Archival research: methods, repositories, and documentation, Handling manuscripts, official records, and unpublished sources, Issues of bias, perspective, and selectivity in sources; Ethical issues in data use and representation; Intellectual property rights (IPR) and copyright in research.

Unit 5 - Data Collection, Analysis, and Academic Writing (12 Hrs.)

Methods of data collection: primary and secondary data; Techniques: interviews, oral history, questionnaires, surveys; Source criticism and validation of data; Methods of analysis and interpretation in historical research; Academic writing: structure, argumentation, clarity, and style, Citation and referencing styles (Chicago, APA, MLA), Footnotes, endnotes, bibliography preparation; Dissertation/thesis writing and presentation skills.

Reference Books:

1. Arnold, J. H. (2000). History: A very short introduction. Oxford University Press.
2. Bentley, M. (1999). Modern historiography: An introduction. Routledge.
3. Black, J., & MacRaid, D. (2007). Studying history (3rd ed.). Palgrave Macmillan.
4. Bloch, M. (1992). The historian's craft. Manchester University Press.
5. Burke, P. (2001). History and social theory. Polity Press.
6. Carr, E. H. (1961). What is history?. Macmillan.
7. Chitnis, K. N. (2006). Research methodology in history. Atlantis Publishers.
8. Elton, G. R. (1967). The practice of history. Methuen.
9. Evans, R. J. (1997). In defence of history. Granta Books.
10. Gorge, H. S. (2017). Research methodology in history. A.P.H. Publishing Corporation.
11. Green, A., & Troup, K. (2016). The houses of history: A critical reader in twentieth-century history and theory. Manchester University Press.
12. Howell, M. C., & Prevenier, W. (2001). From reliable sources: An introduction to historical methods. Cornell University Press.
13. Iggers, G. G. (2005). Historiography in the twentieth century. Wesleyan University Press.

14. Jordanova, L. (2006). History in practice. Hodder Arnold.
15. Kothari, C. R. (2012). Research methodology: Methods and techniques. New Age International.
16. Kumar, R. (2014). Research methodology: A step-by-step guide for beginners. Sage Publications.
17. Marwick, A. (2001). The new nature of history. Palgrave.
18. Schrag, Z. M. (2021). The Princeton guide to historical research. Princeton University Press.
19. Shafer, R. J. (1974). A guide to historical method. Dorsey Press.
20. Sharma, T. R. (2001). Research methodology in history. Concept Publishing House.
21. Sreedharan, E. (2007). A manual of historical research methodology. S.B. Press.
22. Tosh, J. (2015). The pursuit of history. Routledge.

COs and Bloom's Taxonomy Mapping – 26HS555		
Course Outcomes	On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:	BTL
CO1	Recall and explain basic ideas and concepts to understand the nature and methods of historical research, critically evaluate debates on objectivity and develop the ability to analyze and interpret history using evidence-based reasoning.	K1, K2
CO2	Apply the basic understanding with the ability to apply historical research methods, critically evaluate diverse sources, and uphold research ethics by avoiding plagiarism through proper citation and academic integrity.	K3
CO3	Analyze research problems, develop objectives and hypotheses, design effective research strategies, critically review literature and historiography to locate gaps, and apply appropriate theoretical frameworks with conceptual clarity.	K4
CO4	Evaluate archival research, handle diverse historical sources, critically assess bias and interpretation, construct coherent historical narratives, and address ethical and legal issues such as intellectual property rights in research.	K5
CO5	Design and to collect and validate primary and secondary data, apply analytical methods, and produce well-structured academic writing with proper citation, referencing, and thesis presentation skills.	K6

BTL (Bloom's Taxonomy Level) - K1 – Remembering, K2 – Understanding, K3- Applying, K4 – Analyse, K5- Evaluate and K6 - Create

Relationship Matrix – 26HS555													
Course Outcomes	Programme Outcomes (POs)						Programme Specific Outcomes (PSOs)						Mean Score of Cos
	PO1	PO2	PO3	PO4	PO5	PO6	PSO1	PSO2	PSO3	PSO4	PSO5	PSO6	
CO1	1	2	1	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	2	2	1.5
CO2	2	2	1	1	3	1	2	1	1	2	1	2	1.6
CO3	1	1	2	2	3	2	1	2	1	2	2	3	1.8
CO4	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1.8
CO5	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	3	3	2.4
Total													1.82

Mean Score: 3- High, 2- Medium/Moderate, 1-Low