

<b>Course title:</b> Qualitative Research Methodology for Urban Studies				
<b>Course code:</b> MEU 177		<b>No. of credits:</b> 2	<b>L-T-P:</b> 18-8-8	<b>Learning hours:</b> 30
<b>Pre-requisite course code and title (if any):</b> none				
<b>Department:</b> Energy and Environment				
<b>Course coordinator:</b> Dr Bhawna Bali			<b>Course instructor:</b> Dr Bhawna Bali	
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<b>Course type:</b> Core			<b>Course offered in:</b> Second Semester	
<b>Course description:</b> This course is designed to introduce students to the process of research as an academic activity, and methods used in undertaking it in the domain of urban studies. The focus of this course is on Qualitative Methods to complement learning of quantitative techniques taught in the first semester. This course is designed to equip students of urban development management with knowledge and skills required to develop, plan, and carry out research work both as a standalone activity and/or as a part of course and work-related assignments. Thus, this course will help towards developing comprehensive understanding of qualitative methods employed in empirical research involving a systematic collection of data, analysis, interpretation, and writing. Entire course delivery will be dependent on selection of an urban space; by the class or groups of students and a documentation of its functions and users/ inhabitants. All tutorials and practical exercises will be structured around the chosen urban space/area/neighbourhood. The course will also sensitise students towards research ethics.				
<b>Course objectives:</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To develop research appreciation among students by introducing them to the process of conducting research</li> <li>• To train students in using tools for qualitative data collection and employing appropriate techniques for undertaking qualitative analysis in the domain of urban studies.</li> <li>• To enable students to apply these skills for preparing research outputs like research proposal, papers, and dissertation.</li> </ul>				
<b>Course contents</b>				
<b>Module</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>P</b>
1	<b>Introduction to Qualitative Research</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Types of research, their distinctions and complementarity—quantitative, qualitative, mixed methods</li> <li>• Epistemological foundations of qualitative research</li> <li>• Significance of qualitative research in urban studies</li> <li>• Ethical considerations in research</li> </ul>	2		
2	<b>Qualitative Research Process</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifying and defining a research problem</li> <li>• Developing research objectives and questions</li> <li>• Conducting review of literature</li> <li>• Selection of an urban space/area/neighbourhood</li> <li>• Sources of data and choice of methods for data collection</li> <li>• Scope and limitations of research</li> <li>• Expected outcomes of research</li> </ul>	8	2	
3	<b>Methods and Tools of Qualitative Data Collection and</b>	4	4	8

	<b>Generation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sourcing of secondary urban sector data from Census of India; Gazetteers, Statistical Handbooks; Reports etc.</li> <li>• Primary data collection and generation through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Field work/survey of an urban space/area/neighbourhood – Observation, Transect Walk for mapping on-ground features, resource mapping, stakeholder mapping, photo-documentation, ethnography and participant observation.</li> <li>• Open-ended questionnaire</li> <li>• Interviews and narratives</li> <li>• Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			
4	<b>Content Analysis, Presentation and Writing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steps in categorization of qualitative data for analysis</li> <li>• Analysing and interpreting data, texts, documents for abstraction of meaningful results</li> <li>• Presentation of results</li> <li>• Research writing</li> </ul>	4	2	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>

**Evaluation criteria:**

The evaluation is based on application of learning from Modules 2, 3 and 4 comprising three distinct components, viz. tutorial based exercises; field work-based assignments and a final output - draft research proposal based on overall learning from the course (all Modules).

**Type and Weightage (%)**

Test 1: 20% - Written Assignment on identification of thematic, defining a research problem, research objectives, and research questions. (Evaluation linked to learning from Modules 1 and 2).

Test 2: 30% - Written Assignment and Presentation on review of literature, devising research methodology and presentation of collected qualitative data. (Evaluation linked to learning from Modules 2 and 3).

Test 3: 50% - Written Report - A Research Proposal on a chosen theme containing introduction, review of literature, research questions and objectives, research methodology, expected outcomes and references in about 5000 words. (Evaluation linked to learning from all modules).

**Learning outcomes:**

On successful completion of this course the students will be able to:

1. Develop research temperament to identify, formulate and solve research problems. (Evaluation criterion 1 and 2)
2. Advance their understanding about qualitative research methods and their application in urban studies. (All evaluation criterion)

3. Gain competence in designing an urban research study using qualitative techniques of data collection and generation. (Evaluation criterion 2 and 3)
4. Become proficient in use of mixed methods for better outcomes in complex situations. In addition, they would be able to produce academically rigorous Dissertations as part of Major Project internships and other research outputs like proposals, papers, reports. (Evaluation criteria 3)

**Pedagogical approach:**

The course is delivered through a mix of lectures and discussions. A significant component of learning is derived from practical sessions including tutorials (preparation of checklists, open-ended questionnaires, role play, group exercises) and field work conducted on a chosen urban space/area/neighbourhood. This entails active student participation, thereby enhancing their competencies and would facilitate peer-learning. The tutorial sessions would also enable students to develop greater comprehension about the selected theme of their assignment.

Tutorial 1: Identifying research problems, designing research questions and objectives (Module 2)

Tutorial 2: Preparing checklist of questions for conducting interviews, discussions and FGDs (Module 3)

Practical exercises: Identification of a suitable urban space which could be a residential neighbourhood, commercial artery, cultural spaces, public spaces and conducting field work for data collection and generation using different methods (Module 3)

**Materials:**

1. Bryman, Alan (2012): Social Research Methods, Oxford University Press, New Delhi
2. Coffey, Amanda (1996) Making Sense of Qualitative Data: Complementary Research Strategies, Sage Publications, California
3. Corbetta, P. (2003): Social Research, Theory, Methods and Techniques, Sage Publications, New Delhi
4. Cresswell, J.W. (2014): Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Method Approach, Sage Publications, New Delhi
5. Czaja, R. and Blair, J. (2005): Designing Surveys: A Guide to Decisions and Procedures, Pine Forge, Thousand Oaks
6. Denzin, Norman K. and Lincoln, Yvonna S. Eds. (2011): The Sage Handbook of Qualitative Research, Sage Publications, Los Angeles, Chapters 4, 5, 17, 29, 32, 33
7. Flick, Uwe Ed. (2014): The Sage Handbook of Qualitative Data Analysis, Sage Publications, New Delhi
8. Groves, R.M., et.al. (2009): Survey Methodology, John Wiley & Sons, Hoboken
9. Guthrie, Gerard (2010): Basic Research Methods: An Entry to Social Science Research, Sage Publications, New Delhi
10. Hammett, Daniel (2015): Research and Fieldwork in Development, Routledge, London
11. Kothari, C.R. (2004): Research Methodology, Methods and Techniques, New Age International Private Limited Publishers, New Delhi
12. Misra, R.P. (1988): Research Methodology: A Handbook, Concept Publishing Company, New Delhi

13. Patton, Michael Quinn (1990): *Qualitative Evaluation and Research Methods*, Sage Publications, California, Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8
14. Sarantakos, S. (1998): *Social Research*, Macmillan Press, London
15. Silverman, D. (2006): *Interpreting Qualitative Data: Methods for Analyzing Talk, Text and Interaction*, Sage Publications, London
16. Srivastava, Vinay Kumar Ed. (2005): *Methodology and Fieldwork (Oxford in India Readings in Sociology and Social Anthropology)*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi
17. Walliman, N. (2011): *Research Methods: The Basics*, Routledge, London
18. Yin, Robert K. (2009): *Case Study Research: Design and Methods*, Sage Publications, London

Please note: For data related to population of India, refer to the Census of India data sets available at <http://censusindia.gov.in/>

**Additional information (if any):**NA

**Student responsibilities:**

Attendance, feedback, discipline: as per TERI SAS rules.

**Course Reviewers:**

Professor Ravinder Kaur, Department of Geography (CAS), Panjab University, Chandigarh  
Dr Nira Ramachandran, Independent Researcher and formerly ICSSR Senior Fellow, Institute of Economic Growth, New Delhi