

**ALLAMA IQBAL OPEN UNIVERSITY, ISLAMABAD**  
*(Department of Pakistan Studies)*

**WARNING**

1. **PLAGIARISM OR HIRING OF GHOST WRITER(S) FOR SOLVING THE ASSIGNMENT(S) WILL DEBAR THE STUDENT FROM AWARD OF DEGREE/CERTIFICATE, IF FOUND AT ANY STAGE.**
2. **SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS BORROWED OR STOLEN FROM OTHER(S) AS ONE'S OWN WILL BE PENALIZED AS DEFINED IN "AIOU PLAGIARISM POLICY".**

Course: Research Methods–I (4665)  
Level: M. Sc

Semester: Autumn, 2013  
Total Marks: 100  
Pass Marks: 40

*Note: Answers should preferably be in English and based upon the prescribed reading material. Consult study guide for guidance.*

**ASSIGNMENT No. 1**

(Units: 1–5)

- Q. 1 Do you agree that “basic aim of science is theory”. If so give arguments. (20)
- Q. 2 Discuss the main difficulties of social research. (20)
- Q. 3 Discuss the salient features of scientific method. (20)
- Q. 4 Define the term, “Methodology”. How many usages of the term are suggested. Discuss in detail. (20)
- Q. 5 Write notes on the following: (20)
- i) Ethics of doing research.
  - ii) Research language.
  - iii) Problems of research.
  - iv) Effective research design.

## **ASSIGNMENT No. 2**

**(Units: 6–9)**

**Total Marks: 100**

**Pass Marks: 40**

- Q. 1 What do you mean by the term “Sampling”? Describe the sub-types keeping in view probability and non-probability sampling. **(20)**
- Q. 2 Highlight the characteristics of usable hypothesis: How far do you think they should be related to a body of theory? Give details. **(20)**
- Q. 3 Identify the factors affecting selection of the research problem. Illustrate your answer with examples. **(20)**
- Q. 4 Write a detailed essay on experimental research. **(20)**
- Q. 5 Discuss the personal documents as source of data. How far can they be used as a basis for generalization? **(20)**

# **COURSE OUTLINE**

## **RESEARCH METHODS**

### **PART-I**

**Course Code: 4665**

**Course Development Team**

*Dr. Sikandar Hayat*

*Dr. Lubna Saif*

## Introduction

The course on Research Methods is composed of two parts. Each part is of three credit hours. Please see the details below;

Research Methods–Part One	Code No. 4665	3 Credit Hours
Research Methods–Part Two	Code No. 4666	3 Credit Hours

The course on Research Methods is designed to familiarize the students with methods in social science research. There is never a single, standard method of carrying out research. There is no single perfect design. There are many techniques and devices. Indeed, there is no one single scientific method. There are as many different methods as there are fundamentally different kinds of problems. The present course is an attempt to introduce students of M. Sc. Pakistan Studies with various methods applied in social science research with an objective to understand the utilization of social science research. Whatever we do in our daily lives is affected by social science research. Virtually, everyone is the consumer of research throughout its life. We ‘consume’ research when we read the news papers, watch television newscasts and documentaries, vote for a candidate or a party, decide how to make investment, or weigh up the relative advantages of consumer products. The course has four distinct but related sections;

- |  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| (1) Scientific and Methodological Concerns | (2) Data Concerns |
| (3) Research Concerns                      | (4) Data Analysis |

In course Research Methods-Part One, you will study two of these four sections, Section One **Scientific and Methodological Concerns** and Section Two **Data Concerns**.

Section One **Scientific and Methodological Concerns** includes four units (Units 1-4) discussing the relationship between knowledge, science and research and examining the concept of Research Design. Section Two **Data Concerns** covers five units (Units 5-9) discussing the methods of data collection including Use of the Library, Sampling, Observational Methods, Survey Research-Interview, Survey Research-Questionnaire and Experimental Research.

## Course Outline

### Section One

Units 1 & 2

Units 3 & 4

### Section Two

Unit 5

Unit 6

Unit 7

Unit 8

Unit 9

### Scientific and Methodological Concerns

Knowledge, Science and Research

Research Design

### Data Concerns

Use of the Library and Sampling

Observational Methods

Survey Research-Interview

Survey Research-Questionnaire

Experimental Research

## Structure of the Course

This is a three credit hours course, and consists of nine study units, but of unequal length. Ideally one unit is a student work of 12–16 hours. Since the course work of one unit will include studying the prescribed reading material and as the length of the units is unequal you have to calculate how much time you are required to spend on each unit and make your own timetable. We expect you to finish the work within the allocated time.

For this course, ‘Fortnightly Tutorials’ are arranged in the University’s Regional Study Centres. They provide facilities to meet with one another for mutual help and individual discussion with the ‘tutor’. These tutorials are not formal ‘lectures’ given in any formal university, rather these are meant for group and individual discussion with the tutor to facilitate you to undertake part of your learning together. So, before going to attend a tutorial prepare your-self to discuss course material with your colleagues and the tutor.

For this course, you will have to do two assignments, a set of these assignments is being sent to you in this mailing package.

## Assessment

For each course the registered student will be assessed as following:

1. Assignments (continuous assessment). See details as given below.
2. Final Examination (a three-hour written examination will take place at the end of the semester)

The conditions to qualify each component are given below:

- a) A minimum of 40% in each assignment. (Total number of assignments for this course is 2)
- b) A minimum of 40% of the final written examination.
- c) An aggregate of 40% of both the components i.e. assignments and final examination.
- d) To take final examination the students has to pass the assignment component.

The grade will be determined as following:

40%	–	49%	D
50%	–	59%	C
60%	–	69%	B
70%	–	79%	A
Above		80%	A+

## Assignments

- Assignments are those written exercises, which you are required to complete at your own home or place of work after having studied different parts of the

prescribed reading material within the scheduled period of study. (Please see the schedule.) For this course you will receive 2 assignments, which we expect you to complete within the scheduled period.

- This is a compulsory course work and its successful completion will make you eligible to take final examination at the end of the semester.
- To complete your work successfully, you are provided with tutorial support, so that you can discuss your academic problems in tutorial meetings.
- After completing the assignment you will send it to the tutor/course guide, whose name is notified to you for assessment and necessary guidance. Your tutor/course guide will return it after marking and providing academic guidance and supervision.

***Note: The students are informed about the names of tutors and study centres in the beginning of the semester. If you do not receive such information, Please contact your nearest Regional Office.***

To qualify each assignment, you have to obtain a minimum of 40% marks.

### **Course Workshops**

- A three days course workshop for each course will be held at the end of each semester at notified Regional Campuses.
- It is compulsory to attend the workshop. A student is not declared pass until he/she has attended the workshop satisfactorily.

### ***Prescribed Reading Material***

*Social Science Research Methods by B. A. Chadwick, H. M. Bahr and S. L. Albrecht, AIOU*

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