

**Mizan-Tepi University**  
**College of Social Science and Humanities**  
**Department of Sociology**  
**Course Outline**

| <b><u>Background Information</u></b>       |   |                    |                 |
|--|---|--------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Module Name</b>                         | <b>Social Research Methods</b>                                    | Module Code        | <b>SocM2051</b> |
| <b>Course Name</b>                         | Method of Social Research I                                       | <b>Course Code</b> | SOCI2051        |
| <b>Module ECTS</b>                         | 5 ECTS  |                    |                 |
| <b>Instructor's Name</b>                   | Demelash Belay  |                    |                 |
| <b>Consultation Hours<br/>(Local Time)</b> | Monday (7:30-9:30)<br>Wednesday (7:30-9:30)<br>Friday (7:30-9:30) |                    |                 |

**1. Course Description**

The course introduces students to the fundamentals of social research. It attempts to acquaint students with the purpose of social research, research process, central issues of social research methodology, sketches of the various methods of social research, the relevance and use of archival documentary sources in research, and orients students to basics of report writing.

**2. Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course a student will:

- Understand the steps through which the research process progresses and knowledge of the purposes and functions of each of these steps for the whole research.
- Understand the nature of qualitative and quantitative approaches, their differences and interrelatedness.
- Comprehend the major methods of social research together with their characteristics, advantages and limitations.
- Apply qualitative research methods and analyze the problems of various sociological issues in society

### 3. Course Contents

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|---|---|
| <b>Section One</b><br><i>Introducing Social Research</i>  | <i>Meaning of research; types and purpose of social research; quantitative and qualitative approaches; relationship between sociological theory and research; deductive and inductive research; causation and correlation.</i>                                    |
| <b>Section Two</b><br><i>An Overview of the Research Process</i>                                    | <i>The research problem; reviewing the evidence; making the research problem precise; working out the research design; interpreting the results and reporting the research findings.</i>  |
| <b>Section Three</b><br><i>Sketches of the Common Methods of Social Research</i>                    | <i>Participant observation; documentary research; experimental method; in-depth interviews; Focus Group Discussions; life histories; diaries; conversational analysis; Rapid Rural Appraisals/Participatory Rural Appraisal and methodological triangulation.</i> |
| <b>Section Four</b><br><i>Some Guides for Writing Social Research Proposals and Research Papers</i> | <i>Meaning of research proposal; elements of research proposals; writing research proposals; composing and editing research paper, and documenting sources.</i>   |

### 4. Mode of Assessment

- ☞ **Assignment I: Proposal Writing, Conducting Interviews and Reporting:** Students will select a topic of their choice and write brief proposal within the framework of qualitative research approach. The proposal should include all elements of good social research proposal. Students will also conduct interviews based on the proposal they have developed for the assignment and a write report. The assignment will account for 25% of the total mark (Writing up 15% and Presentation 10%).
- ☞ **Exams:** will account for 35% of the total mark (1<sup>st</sup> Exam - 15% and 2<sup>nd</sup> Exam - 20%).
- ☞ **Final Written Examination:** 40%

## 5. Reading Materials

Bernard, H. Russell (1994) *Research Methods in Anthropology: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches*. Second Edition. London: SAGE Publications (Selected Sections).

Durkin, Danie Bennett (1987) *Writing in the Disciplines*. New York: Random House (Chapters 2, 4, and 9).

Garfinkel, H. (1967) *Studies in Ethnomethodology*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Goffman, E., (1961), *Asylums*. Garden City, NY: Doubleday.

Giddens, Anthony, (1989) *Sociology*. (Chapter 21, Working with Sociology: Methods of Research, (pp 659-89). Cambridge: Polity Press

Mikkelsen, Britha (1995) *Methods for Development Work and Research: A guide for practitioners*. New Delhi/ Thousand Oaks/London: SAGE Publications (Selected Sections).

Patton, M. (1990) *Qualitative Evaluation and Research Methods*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage.



Salkind, N. (2000) *Exploring Research*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Singleton, R. & B. Straits (1999) *Approaches to Social Research*. NY: Oxford Univ. Press.

## 6. Course Schedule

| Days  | Activity  | Time (Local) |
|-------|---|--------------|
| Day 1 | <b>Course Introduction</b>  | 2:30 – 5:50  |
|       | <b>Lecture:</b><br>✓ <b>Section One: Introducing Social Research</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Meaning of research</i></li> <li>• <i>Types and purpose of social research</i></li> </ul>  |              |
| Day 2 | <b>Lecture:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Quantitative and qualitative approaches;</i></li> <li>• <i>Relationship between sociological theory and research</i></li> <li>• <i>Deductive and inductive research</i></li> <li>• <i>Causation and correlation.</i></li> </ul> | 2:30 – 5:50  |
| Day 3 | <b>Lecture:</b><br>✓ <b>Section Two: An Overview of the Research Process</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The research problem</i></li> <li>• <i>Reviewing the evidence</i></li> </ul>   | 2:30 – 5:50  |
| Day 4 | <b>Lecture:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Making the research problem precise</i></li> <li>• <i>Working out the research design</i></li> </ul> 📖 <b>Discussion on Group Assignment Topic Selection</b>  | 2:30 – 4:50  |
| Day 5 | <b>Lecture:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Interpreting the results</i></li> <li>• <i>Reporting the research findings</i></li> </ul>   | 2:30 – 5:50  |
| Day 6 | 📖 <b>First Exam – Section One</b><br>📖 <b>Group Assignment Topic Submission</b>   | 7:45         |

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| Day 7  | <b>Lecture:</b><br>✓ <b>Section Three: Sketches of the Common Methods of Social Research</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Participant observation</i></li> <li>• <i>Documentary research</i></li> </ul> 📖 <b>Discussion on the Group Assignment</b>                                    | 2:30 – 5:50 |
| Day 8  | <b>Lecture:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Experimental method</i></li> <li>• <i>in-depth interviews</i></li> <li>• <i>Focus Group Discussions</i></li> </ul>  | 2:30 – 5:50 |
| Day 9  | <b>Lecture:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Life histories and diaries</i></li> <li>• <i>Conversational analysis</i></li> <li>• <i>Rapid Rural Appraisals/Participatory Rural Appraisal</i></li> <li>• <i>Methodological triangulation.</i></li> </ul>                                | 2:30 – 5:50 |
| Day 10 | 📖 <b>Second Exam – Section Two</b>  | 3:00        |
| Day 11 | <b>Lecture:</b><br>✓ <b>Section Four: Some Guides for Writing Social Research Proposals and Research Papers</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Meaning of research proposal</i></li> <li>• <i>Elements of research proposals</i></li> <li>• <i>Writing research proposals</i></li> </ul> | 2:30 – 5:50 |
| Day 12 | <b>Lecture:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Composing and editing research paper</i></li> <li>• <i>Documenting sources</i></li> </ul>   | 2:30 – 5:50 |
| Day 13 | 📖 <b>Final Exam – Section Three and Four</b>  | 3:00        |

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| Day 14 |  <b>Group Assignment Paper Submission</b> | <b>3:00 – 5:00</b><br>(Office, Department of Sociology) |
| Day 15 |  <b>Group Assignment Presentation</b>     | <b>3:00</b>   |