

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

**Background Information**

Instructor's Name: **Demelash Belay**

Consultation Hours: **Monday (8:20-10:20 Local Time)**

**Wednesday (8:20-10:20 Local Time)**

**Friday (8:20-10:20 Local Time)**

Module Name: **Social Research Methods**

Module Code: **SocM2051**

Course Name: **Method of Social Research II**

Course Code: **SOCI2052**

Module ECTS: **5 ECTS**

**1. Course Description**

This course tries to impart to students basic skills in quantitative research. To this effect it shall focus on one widely employed quantitative method of social research, namely the survey method.

**2. Learning Outcomes**

At the end of the course students will understand:

- The various survey designs and how to choose the ones most appropriate for the task at hand
- The various probability and non-probability sampling designs as well as the ability to select and apply the most appropriate ones for the task at hand.
- The logic of conceptualization, operationalization and identify various levels of measurements with their features in social research.

**Students will also develop:**

- Proper skills to differentiate between independent, intervening and dependent variables as well as between correlation, causation and spurious relationship.
- The ability to systematically analyze and bring together information that is collected with the different methods from the various sources about different aspects of the phenomenon under investigation.
- The ability to identify levels of measurement and scale continuity of a particular variable and proceed to use the appropriate statistical procedure.
- The skill needed to design, pre-test and apply an appropriate and valid questionnaire on the basis of conceptualization and operationalization work.

**3. Course Contents**

**Section One: Introducing the Survey Method and Survey Designs:** *An overview of survey research; purposes of survey research and its scientific characteristics; Basic survey designs and choosing the appropriate design.*

**Section Two: Survey Sampling:** *The logic of Probability Sampling; Sampling Concepts and Terminology; probability sampling theory and sampling distribution; types of sampling designs; disproportionate sampling and weighting and non probability sampling.*

**Section Three: Conceptualization, Operationalization and Measurement:** *The logic of conceptualization; frameworks of operationalization and levels of measurement.*

**Section Four: Instrument Design:** *Guides to questions construction; general questionnaire format and ordering questions in questionnaire.*

#### 4. Mode of Assessment

**Assignment I:** In this assignment students will select a research topic of their choice that can be studied through survey research method. They will develop proposal and instrument of data collection. The proposal should include all elements of good survey research inter alia survey population; survey design and sampling; and conceptualization, operationalization and level of measurement of major variables. The assignments will account for 30% (write up 20% and **presentation** 10%) of total marks.

**Tests:** will account for 20% of the total mark.

**Final Written Examination:** will account for 50% of the total mark.

#### 5. Reading Materials

Babbie, Earl (1973) *Survey Research Methods*. Belmont, California: Wadsworth Publishing.

Babbie, Earl (1992) *The Practice of Social Research*. Six Edition. Belmont, California: Wadsworth Publishing.

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