

## **PG Open Elective**

### **FOUNDATIONS OF RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC WRITING**

Course Code: 21 HST 804

Credits: 3 (2L+1T)

Total Marks: 100 (40 MTE + 20 CWS + 40 ETE)

#### **Objectives:**

1. To provide the students the basic tools and materials for research
2. To acquaint them with the process of research
3. To guide them in presenting their research and results
4. To supervise the students as they write research papers on topics related to their Ph.D. research

#### **Syllabus:**

1. Research: meaning and objectives
2. Research techniques in literary studies and linguistics/ social sciences/ quantitative methods for research
3. Resources and means of research: books, journals, anthologies, unpublished theses, conference proceedings, newspaper articles, e-journals, thesauruses, encyclopedias, Dissertation Abstracts, web references, research sites, printed indexes, e-mail discussion groups, special libraries, advanced study centers, virtual libraries, internet search engines
4. Developing study skills: reading and note-taking, reading academic journals and texts, mapping out a topic, planning and writing essays and articles, writing for impact, evaluating and presenting arguments
5. The process of research : selecting a research topic; review of literature; identifying aims and objectives; formulating the thesis statement; defining the scope and limitations; drafting a research proposal; planning the timeline
6. Presentation of research : title of the study, aims and objectives; format of research; pagination; grammar, punctuation and the conventions of academic writing: organization of materials; avoiding plagiarism; in-text citations; list of works cited; footnotes and endnotes; research findings; bibliography; using standard style sheets – MLA, APA, Chicago Manual, Harvard system of referencing.

**Assessment:** The performance and understanding of the students will be evaluated through two mid-term exams, end-term exam and class-work sessionals which will include writing and communicating two research papers on the topics of their choice in the supervision of their mentor.

**Suggested Reading and References:**

1. Chindhade, S. and A. Thorat (2009), *An Introduction to Research*, Mumbai: Cambridge University Press.
2. Eliot, Simon and W. R. Owens (4<sup>th</sup> edn. 1998), *A Handbook to Literary Research*, London: Routledge & Open University.
3. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (7<sup>th</sup> edn. 2009), New York: MLA Association.
4. Oliver, Paul (2005), *Writing Your Thesis*, New Delhi: Vistaar Publications.
5. Sinha, M.P. (2004), *Research Methods in English*, New Delhi: Atlantic.
6. Brown, James Dean (2006), *Understanding Research in Second Language Learning*, New York: Cambridge University Press.
7. Adam Sirjohn (2004), *Research Methodology: Methods & Techniques*, Delhi: New Age International.
8. Miller, R. H. (1995), *Handbook of Literary Research*, Methuen.
9. Seliger (2001), *Second Language Research Methods*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
10. Lenburg, Jeff (2007), *Guide to Research*, Viva Books.
11. Abdul Rahim, F. (2005), *Thesis Writing: A Manual for Researchers*, New Delhi: New Age International.
12. Hunt, Andy (2005), *Your Research Project*, New Delhi: Foundation Books.
13. Punch, K.E. (1998), *Introduction to Social Research*, London: Sage.
14. Brause, R.S. (2000), *Writing your Doctoral Dissertation: Invisible Rules for Success*, London: Falmer.