

**Pre-Ph.D Course Work Syllabus**

**COURSE-I: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

**TOTAL CREDIT= 4**

**OBJECTIVE:**

To induct on the students an in-depth knowledge of Research Methodology and to enable them to carry out research in scientific manner.

**Block-I: Introduction to Research**

**Unit-1: Research Approaches:**

Historical approach- Case study approach-descriptive approach Experimental approach.

**Unit-2: Types of research: Pure research-applied research; categories of research: ex-post facto research –experimental research-field investigation research-survey research-evaluation research-action research.**

**Block-II**

**Unit-1: Selection and Formulation of Research Problems: Factors to be considered in selection of research problem. Steps in formulation of problem.**

**Block-III:**

**Unit-1: Research Design:**

Components of Research Design; Framing of hypothesis and research question.

**Block-IV:**

**Unit-1: Basic Statistical Concept**

Types of variables-Quantitative and Qualitative; Reliability and validity-assessing reliability and validity of variables; confidence level and determination of size of samples.

**Unit-2: Types of sampling**

Random and Non-Random sampling and their various kinds.

Total number of class=4x14=56 classes of 1 hr. duration

Internal Assessment: 20 Marks: 20 Marks for 1 Sessional Examination

10 Marks: 10 Marks for submission of a write-up on any one of the units

10 Marks: 10 Marks for presentation of the above write-up.

Books recommended:

**Text Books:**

- 1) The Essential Guide to Doing Research: Zina O'Leary; Vistar Publications (A division of Sage Publication) New Delhi.

- 2) Research Methodology: C.R. Kothari, New Age International Publications, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition.
- 3) Practice of Social Research: E.R. Babbie, Belmont, CA; Wadsworth.

Reference Books:

- 1) Hand Book of Research Design and Social Measurement: D.C. Miller and N.J. Salkind, Sage Publications, London.
- 2) Qualitative Research Methods for the Social Sciences: Allyn and Bacon Boston, MA
- 3) Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches: Sage Publications, London.

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**COURSE-II: BUSINESS RESEARCH**

**TOTAL CREDIT: 4 CREDIT (\*TE 60 Marks and \*IA 40 Marks=100 Marks)**

**OBJECTIVE:**

To enable the Ph.D and M.Phil (Commerce) scholars to enable to pursue research in the various fields of business studies.

- Block-I: Unit-I  
Review of literature: Important of working with literature; finding literature; managing literature; using literature; the formal literature review.
- Block-II: Unit-II  
Ethics in Research; Ethical principles - other ethical consideration-ethical decision making.  
Scope of research in business, Power, Politics and Research, Ethical Responsibilities.
- Block-III: Methods of Data Collection:  
Sources of business data; Primary & Secondary data in connection to business research.
- Block-IV: Report writing and Presentation:  
Types of report; Report writing; objectives and steps of report writing Academic writing skill in business.

\*TE: Term End

\*IA: Internal Assessment

**Components of Internal Assessment**

i)	Sessional Test	: 20 Marks
ii)	Review of literature write up	: 10 Marks
iii)	Presentation of Review of Literature:	: 10 Marks
	<u>Total</u>	: 40 Marks

**Books Recommended:**

**Text Books:**

- i) Business Research Methods: Donald Cooper and Pamela Schindler Tata McGraw Hills, New Delhi.
- ii) Business Research Methods: Alan Brayman and Emma Sell, Oxford University Press, New Delhi.

**Reference Books:**

- 1) The Practice of Social Research: E.R. Babbie, Wadsworth
- 2) Handbook of Research Design and Social Measurement: D.C. Meller and N.J Salkisd (6<sup>th</sup> edition), Sage Publication, London & New Delhi.

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## Pre-Ph.D Course Work Syllabus

### COURSE-III: RESEARCH GAP AND METHODOLOGICAL DESIGN

Total Credit=4

Internal assessment: 40 marks

Term-end examination: 60 marks

(The Course has to be conducted by the concerned supervisors including Conduction and Evaluation of Internal Assessment and Term-End examination)

Objective of this course is to equip the Ph.D students with the fundamental concepts, theories and issues in the various fields of the study. This is to enable the students to develop concepts in various advanced areas by studying seminal research papers published in noted journals both national and international. Pursuing such seminal papers shall enable the students to develop the theoretical foundation in the respective field of their study.

The purpose of this course is also to acquaint the Pre-Ph.D Course-Work students with the theoretical and empirical evidences on various issues in their respective field of the study. The course has been aimed to go beyond the Fundamental Research Methodology in general (taught in Course-I & Course-II) and enable them to develop the specific Research Methodology relevant to their field of study and selected topic of Ph.D research. This is also intended to induct on students the ability to justify theory and tools in support of the specific Research Methodology and the Research Gap.

The relevant fields of study are as under:

- i) Accounting
- ii) Finance
- iii) International Business
- iv) Banking
- v) Marketing
- vi) Human Resource Management/Development
- vii) Management, Economics and other Allied areas
- viii) Any other field of study leading to interdisciplinary multidisciplinary research

The concerned supervisor has to:

- a) Suggest reading, keeping in view the relevance, contemporaries and research trends
- b) Instruct the concerned students to submit in writing at least 30 detailed review of original literature which shall be forming inter-alia a component of internal assessment
- c) To submit to the HOD Commerce/Chairperson DRC(Commerce)

Statement of Internal Assessment and term-end examination marks on or before the commencement of term-end examinations of Course-I and Course-II along with term-end answer scripts and Internal Assessment submissions.

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## Pre-Ph.D Course Work Syllabus

### Course-IV: Synoptic Outline Writing

Total Credit=4

Term End Submission: 80 Marks

Viva-Voce: 20 Marks

The objective of this Course is to judge the competency developed in the students to write an appropriate synoptic outline in their respective field of pursuing Ph. D research. The skill of writing in this context shall depend upon the successful induction of Course-I and Course-II in general and Course-III specifically.

A viva-voce test shall be conducted by a committee comprising of the following Faculty members.

- 1) The Chairperson DRC (Commerce) as Chairperson of the viva-voce test.
- 2) The concerned supervisor of the Ph. D student.
- 3) At least three Faculty members of the Department of Commerce, Dibrugarh University.

The said viva-voce shall mainly emphasis on the synoptic outline submitted by the student. The committee may suggest for modification for improvement of the synoptic outline.

The marks will be awarded by the Chairperson of the committee and the concerned supervisor. The average of both the marks shall be the marks secured by the candidate in the viva-voce test.

This Course is also aimed to assess the capability of the students to establish a valid research gap and develop a relevant methodological design.

The concerned supervisor has to:

- (a) Guide the students to develop a well defined, scientific and feasible methodology design in the relevant field of research.
- (b) Guide the students in writing the synoptic outline.
- (c) Ensure that the written script of synoptic outline is submitted to him/her atleast 10 days prior to the commencement of term-end examination of Course-I and Course-II.
- (d) The concerned supervisor has to submit a statement of marks secured in Course-IV along with the marks in viva-voce test within 7 days after the holding of viva-voce test to the HOD, Commerce.

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# COURSE V

## RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION ETHICS

### Course structure

- The course comprises of six modules listed in table below. Each module has 4-5 units.

Module	Title	Units
<b>Theory</b>		
RPE 01	Philosophy and Ethics	4
RPE 02	Scientific Conduct	4
RPE 03	Publication Ethics	7
<b>Practice</b>		
RPE 04	Open Access Publishing	4
RPE 05	Publication Misconduct	4
RPE 06	Databases and Research Metrics	7
	<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>

### Syllabus in detail

#### **THEORY**

- RPE 01: PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS (3 hrs.)**
  - Introduction to philosophy: definition, nature and scope, concept, branches
  - Ethics: definition, moral philosophy, nature of moral judgements and reactions
- RPE 02: SCIENTIFIC CONDUCT (5hrs.)**
  - Ethics with respect to science and research
  - Intellectual honesty and research integrity
  - Scientific misconducts: Falsification, Fabrication, and Plagiarism (FFP)
  - Redundant publications: duplicate and overlapping publications, salami slicing
  - Selective reporting and misrepresentation of data
- RPE 03: PUBLICATION ETHICS (7 hrs.)**
  - Publication ethics: definition, introduction and importance
  - Best practices / standards setting initiatives and guidelines: COPE, WAME, etc.
  - Conflicts of interest
  - Publication misconduct: definition, concept, problems that lead to unethical behavior and vice versa, types
  - Violation of publication ethics, authorship and contributorship
  - Identification of publication misconduct, complaints and appeals
  - Predatory publishers and journals

#### **PRACTICE**

- RPE 04: OPEN ACCESS PUBLISHING(4 hrs.)**

1. Open access publications and initiatives
2. SHERPA/RoMEO online resource to check publisher copyright & self-archiving policies
3. Software tool to identify predatory publications developed by SPPU
4. Journal finder / journal suggestion tools viz. JANE, Elsevier Journal Finder, Springer Journal Suggester, etc.

• **RPE 05: PUBLICATION MISCONDUCT (4hrs.)**

**A. Group Discussions (2 hrs.)**

1. Subject specific ethical issues, FFP, authorship
2. Conflicts of interest
3. Complaints and appeals: examples and fraud from India and abroad

**B. Software tools (2 hrs.)**

Use of plagiarism software like Turnitin, Urkund and other open source software tools

• **RPE 06: DATABASES AND RESEARCH METRICS (7hrs.)**

**A. Databases (4 hrs.)**

1. Indexing databases
2. Citation databases: Web of Science, Scopus, etc.

**B. Research Metrics (3 hrs.)**

1. Impact Factor of journal as per Journal Citation Report, SNIP, SJR, IPP, Cite Score
2. Metrics: h-index, g index, i10 index, altmetrics

**References**

- Bird, A. (2006). *Philosophy of Science*. Routledge.
- MacIntyre, Alasdair (1967) *A Short History of Ethics*. London.
- P. Chaddah, (2018) *Ethics in Competitive Research: Do not get scooped; do not get plagiarized*, ISBN:978-9387480865
- National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering and Institute of Medicine. (2009). *On Being a Scientist: A Guide to Responsible Conduct in Research: Third Edition*. National Academies Press.
- Resnik, D. B. (2011). What is ethics in research & why is it important. *National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences*, 1–10. Retrieved from <https://www.niehs.nih.gov/research/resources/bioethics/whatis/index.cfm>
- Beall, J. (2012). Predatory publishers are corrupting open access. *Nature*, 489(7415), 179–179. <https://doi.org/10.1038/489179a>
- Indian National Science Academy (INSA), *Ethics in Science Education, Research and Governance*(2019), ISBN:978-81-939482-1-7. [http://www.insaindia.res.in/pdf/Ethics\\_Book.pdf](http://www.insaindia.res.in/pdf/Ethics_Book.pdf)



## M.Phil (Commerce) Programme

The Course Structure and Marks Distribution shall be as under:

Course	Title of the Course	Nature	Internal Assessment Marks	End-Semester Examination Marks	Total Weightage	Total Credit
Course-I	Research Methodology (Core)	Theory	40	60	100	4
Course-II	Business Research (Core)	Theory	40	60	100	4
Course-III	Dissertation (Compulsory)	Research Based Project	-	150	200	
Course-IV	Viva-Voce		-	50		8
Total:					400	16

2. Course-I and Course-II as shown in above table has been prepared by the DRC (Commerce) and approved by it on its meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 under report to School Board, the School of Commerce and Management Sciences and the Post Graduate Board, Dibrugarh University.