

Course name: Research Method for Economists

Course code Econ2063

Course Description:

Research in any discipline is a base for its development. Basic knowledge in a discipline is also generated through research. Economic research is additionally required for nations to grow at all levels and to have a healthy macroeconomic environment. Research undertakings at household, firm, national and cross-country levels are relevant. Understanding the basics of research in general and economic research in particular is, therefore, vital. This course is an introductory course which helps students get a preliminary knowledge on the various methods in research and their applications. Specific techniques and steps in economic research will be addressed. Upon the progress of the course, emphasis will be laid on research proposal writing, sampling techniques, data collection methods, hypothesis testing, data analysis, research report writing, *etc.* Note that this course will equip you with an arsenal of techniques in the short-run to effectively write term papers in various courses and your senior essay before graduation, and in the long-run to research on various economic issues after your graduation.

Course Objectives:

After the completion of this course, students are expected to:

- ☛ Define the concept of research;
- ☛ Distinguish between scientific sources vs. other sources of knowledge;
- ☛ Explain the assumptions that underlie research methodologies;
- ☛ Discuss the philosophy of research;
- ☛ Identify different types of research;
- ☛ Understand the steps to be followed to conduct an economic research;
- ☛ Be able to prepare a standard research proposal;
- ☛ Demonstrate the ability of analytical and critical thinking;
- ☛ Understand various methods of data collection and analysis;
- ☛ Be able to write standard research reports; and
- ☛ Develop presentation skills in addressing theoretical and empirical issues.

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Course Contents:

1. Introduction (5 hours)

- 1.1. Definition of Research
- 1.2. Characteristics of Research
- 1.3. Classification of Research
- 1.4. Motivation in Research
- 1.5. Types of Research

2. Formulation of Research Problem and hypothesis (8 hours)

- 2.1. Research Problem
 - 2.1.1. Source of Research Problem
 - 2.1.2. Criteria of a good Research Problem

- 2.1.3. Formulating and testing of the problem
- 2.2. Research Hypothesis
 - 2.2.1. Characteristics of a usable hypothesis
 - 2.2.2. Difficulties in formulating Hypothesis
- 3. **Research Design (9 hours)**
 - 3.1. Definition
 - 3.2. Components of Research Design
 - 3.3. Related literature review
 - 3.3.1. Characteristics of Related Literature
 - 3.3.2. Recording of Reading for Literature
 - 3.3.3. Note taking: Reviewing the literature
 - 3.3.3.1. Paraphrasing
 - 3.3.3.2. Incorporating Direct Quotes
 - 3.3.4. Proper Citation Style
 - 3.4. Conceptualization of the different terms used in investigation
 - 3.4.1. Variables
 - 3.5. Research Proposal
 - 3.5.1. Importance of Research Proposal
 - 3.5.2. Elements of a Research Proposal
- 4. **Census and Sample Investigation (9 hours)**
 - 4.1. Over View of Census and Sample Investigation
 - 4.2. Sampling
 - 4.2.1. Types of Sampling Techniques
 - 4.2.1.1. Probability Sampling techniques
 - 4.2.1.2. Non-probability Sampling Technique
 - 4.2.2. Sampling and Non-Sampling Errors
- 5. **Data Collection (6 hours)**
 - 5.1. Classification of Data
 - 5.1.1. Primary Data
 - Questionnaire Method
 - Interview and its sorts
 - Observation and its types
 - 5.1.2. Secondary Data and its Classification
 - 5.2. Sources of Information
 - 5.3. Statistical units in collection of Data
 - Types of Statistical Units
- 6. **Data Processing and Analysis (6 hours)**
 - 6.1. Coding, editing and cleaning the data
 - 6.2. Data analysis
 - 6.3. Testing hypothesis
- 7. **Writing the Research Report (5 hours)**
 - 7.1. The writing process
 - 7.2. Types of research reports
 - 7.3. Research report formats for long reports
 - 7.4. Components of a research report
 - 7.5. Presenting the research report

REFERENCES

1. Ranjit Kumar. 2005. Research Methodology: A step-by-step guide for beginners. London. Sage Publications
2. C.R. Kothari. 2004. Research Methodology: Methods and Techniques. Second Revised Edition.
3. Gujarati, Damodar N. 2001. Basic Econometrics, : McGraw-Hill
4. Leedy, Paul. 1997. Practical Research: Planning and Design. Upper Saddle River: Prentice-Hall.
5. Mukherjee, C., H. White, and M. Wuyts. 1998. Econometrics and Data Analysis in Developing Countries. London: Routledge.
6. Newman, W. L. 1997. Social Science Research Methods: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches. Boston: Ally and Bacon
7. Blaug, Mark. 1992. The Methodology of science: How Economists explain, second edition, 1992.

Module Delivery Methods

The delivery method shall be student-centered. Students are highly expected to participate in class works at the middle and end of each session and in group discussions inside and outside of the class. Specifically the course will be delivered through the following methods:

- Lecture Method
- In-class problem solving
- Group Work
- Assignment

Assessment Methods

Student evaluation in this module consist both formative and summative assessments including quizzes, test and final exam. Marks will be allocated according to the following grading schedule.

Assessment method	Weight
Assignment (Indiv/group)	20%
Quizzes/Tests(Max of 10 % each)	30%
Final Exam	50 %
Total	100%

NB: the assessment method for laboratory class of each econometrics course will account 25% of the total.