

# **SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH: LOGICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL ISSUES**

**Course Code: SOC-508**

**Course Mode: L-T-P-C: 3-1-0-4**

**Course Type: Core**

**Semester: Spring**

## **Objectives of the Course:**

This course aims to provide students with an understanding of philosophical issues besides research designs, formulation of research problems, in terms of comparative, functional and evolutionary, historical perspectives besides their explanations.

### **UNIT I Philosophical Issues in social science research**

Forms and Types of Knowledge; Reason and Science; Inductive and Deductive Logic; Value and Value-neutrality in Social Sciences; Ethics in Social Sciences; Cross-Cultural Research

### **UNIT II Components of Social Research**

Concept, Definition, Classification, Hypothesis, Theory, Fact, Identification of Research Problem, Empirical Generalizations

### **UNIT III Methodological Perspectives in Social Research**

Positivism and Its Critiques; Verstehen, Conjectures and Refutations  
Comparative, Functional, Dialectical and Ethnographic Methods

### **UNIT IV Explanations and Critical Social Research in Social Sciences:**

Genetic, Intentional and Functional Explanations; Empirical Generalizations; Grand Theories and Middle-Range Theories,

## **Essential Readings:**

Durkheim E. 1937. *The Rules of Sociological Method*, New York: The Free Press

Giddens, A. (Ed.). 1974. *Positivism and Sociology*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Goode, W.J. and Hatt, P. K.. 1952. *Methods in Social Research*, New York: McGraw-Hill

Kuhn, T. S. 1970. *The Structure of Scientific Revolution*, Chicago: Chicago University Press

Merton, Robert K. 1968. *Social Theory and Social Structure*, London: Free Press

Nagel, Ernest and Morris R Cohen 1981. *An Introduction to Logic and Scientific Method* Simon Publications

Weber, Max; 1949. *Methodology of Social Science*; Free Press, Glencoe

Feyeraband, P. K. 1975. *Against Method*, London: New Left Books

Popper, Karl. 1963. *Conjectures and Refutations* London: Routledge

Galtung, J. 1967. *Theory and Methods of social research*, Oslo: Universitetforlaget

Babbie, E. 2007. *The Practice of Social Research*, USA: Wadsworth

Brown, Robert 1963. *Explanation in Social Science* London: Rutledge and Kegan Paul

Mukherji, P.N. 2000. *Methodology of Social Research: Dilemmas and Perspectives*, Delhi: Sage

**Further Readings:**

Bryman, Alan. 1988. *Quality and Quantity in Social Research*, London: Unwin

Bryman, Alan. 2005. *Social Research Methods*, London: Oxford University Press

Bottomore, T.B. 2008. *Sociology – A guide to problems and literature*, Delhi: S. Chand Publisher.

Corbetta, P. 2003. *Social Research: Theory, Methods and Techniques*, London: Sage

Gorman, R. A. 1977. *The Dual Vision: Alfred Schutz and the Myth of Phenomenological Social Science*, London: Routledge and Kegan Paul

Myrdal, G. 1970. *Objectivity in Social Research*, London: Gerald Duckworth

Newton-Smith, W. H. 1981. *The Rationality of Science*, London: Routledge and Kegan Paul

Popper, Karl. 1972. *Objective Knowledge*, London: Oxford University Press

Punch, Kieth. 1996. *Introduction to Social Research*, London: Sage

Shipman, M.. 1988. *The Limitations of Social Research*, London: Sage

Somekh, B. and Lewin, C. 2002. *Research Methods in Social Sciences*, London: Sage

Beteille Andre 1974. *Six Essays in Comparative Sociology*; , New Delhi: Oxford University Press

Wallace, Walter L. 1979. *The Logic of Science in Sociology*. New York: Aldine de Gruyter

Winch, Peter. 1990. *The Idea of a Social Science and its Relation to Philosophy. (2<sup>nd</sup> edition)*. New Jersey: Humanities Press International

Smelser, Neil J. 1976. *Comparative Methods in Social Sciences*. Prentice Hall