



Department of Political Science

**Vidyasagar University**

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# **PhD Programme in Political Science**

## **SYLLABUS**



Department of Political Science  
**Vidyasagar University**  
Midnapore, West Bengal- 721102.

**Coursework Syllabus for Ph. D. Programme**

Year	Course No	Course Title	Full Marks
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Year</b>	PLS- 111	Social Science Research: Theoretical and Methodological Perspectives	50 (Exam.- 40+ IA 10)
	PLS- 112	Logic of Scientific Inquiry	50 (Exam.- 40+ IA 10)
	PLS- 113	Research Methods and Techniques	50 (Exam.- 40+ IA 10)
	PLS- 114	Statistical Methods and Techniques	50 Project Work Under the Supervisor
<b>Second Semester Onwards: Thesis Writing</b>			

# **PhD Coursework First Semester**

## **PLS-111:**

### **Social Science Research: Theoretical and Methodological Perspectives**

#### **Group-A**

1. Inductive and Deductive Methods
2. Analytical and Descriptive Methods
3. Qualitative and Quantitative Methods
4. Ethical Controversies in Social Science Research Methods

#### **Group-B**

5. Approaches to the Study of International Relations: Normative versus Empirical.
6. Positivist Methodology in International Relations.
7. Post-Positivist Methodologies: Post-Modernism, Constructivism and Critical Theory.
8. Explaining IR versus Understanding IR: Ontology and Epistemology.

# **PhD Coursework First Semester**

## **PLS-112: Logic of Scientific Inquiry**

### **Group- A**

1. Basic Orientations Towards the Scientific Method – Characteristics of Scientific Knowledge
2. Science, Theory and Fact – Role of Theory in Social Science Research.
3. Concepts, Variables and Hypotheses as building blocks of Theory.
4. Role of 'Value' in Social Science Research.

### **Group – B**

5. Reading Politics : Causal, reason- action, hermeneutic, postmodern
6. Ideology and Interpellation :Althusseis intervention
7. Positivism :Auguste Comte's contributions
8. Karl Popper : 'Falsifiability' of scientific theory

**PhD Coursework First  
Semester  
Course No. PLS-113**

**Group - A**

1. Stages of Conducting Research: (a) Formulating Research Questions; (b) Literature Review; (c) Formulating the Hypothesis; (d) Defining the Concepts; (e) Operationalizing the Concepts etc.
2. Action Research Design and Case Study Design
3. Causal Design and Descriptive Design
4. Mixed Design.

**Group - B**

5. Survey Research: Meaning, Different Phases and Components
6. Different Techniques and Methods of Survey Research: Sampling, Interview and Questionnaire.
7. Analysis of Survey Data: Formatting a Data file; constructing a Code; Approaches to Data Entry; Data Cleaning.
8. Ethical Issues in Survey Research.

# **PhD Coursework First Semester**

**Course No. PLS-114**

## **Group- A**

1. Introduction
2. Statistics in Social Science Research
3. Collection of Data
4. Organisation of Data

## **Group- B**

5. Presentation of Data
6. Frequency Curves and Diagrams
7. Measures of Central Tendency
8. Measures of Dispersion