Department of Political Science
Vidyasagar University
Midnapore, West Bengal – 721 102.
Telephone: (03222) 275297 / 276554 / 276555 / 276557/ 276558 Fax: (03222) 275329

PhD Programme in Political Science

SYLLABUS

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Department of Political Science

Vidyasagar University

Midnapore, West Bengal- 721102.

Coursework Syllabus for Ph. D. Programme

Year	Course No	Course Title	Full Marks
1st Year	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
Second Semester Onwards: Thesis Writing			

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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.

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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

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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.

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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

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