



**SOMAIYA**  
VIDYAVIHAR UNIVERSITY

K J Somaia Institute of Dharma Studies

## Syllabus

Certificate Course in Research Methodology and  
Academic Writing

From  
Academic Year 2020 – 21

Revision 1

Centre for Buddhist Studies  
K J Somaia Institute of Dharma Studies  
Somaia Vidyavihar University, Vidyavihar, Mumbai - 400077  
(Constituent Academic Unit of Somaia Vidyavihar University)

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**Credit Scheme**

<b>Course Code</b>	<b>Course Name</b>	<b>Teaching Scheme (Hrs.) TH – W – TUT</b>	<b>Total (Hrs.)</b>	<b>Credits Assigned TH – W – TUT</b>	<b>Total Credits</b>
126C55C101	Research Methodology	04-00-00	04	04-00-00	04
126C55W101	Workshop: Academic Writing	00-01-00	01	02-00-00	02
<b>Total</b>		<b>04 -01 - 00</b>	<b>05</b>	<b>06-00-00</b>	<b>06</b>

**Examination Scheme**

<b>Course Code</b>	<b>Course Name</b>	<b>Examination Scheme Marks</b>			
		<b>CA</b>	<b>TW</b>	<b>ESE</b>	<b>Total</b>
126C55C101	Research Methodology	70	-	30	100
126C55W101	Workshop: Academic Writing	50	-	-	50
<b>Total</b>		<b>120</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>150</b>

Paper / Course Code	Paper / Course Title			
126C55C101	Research Methodology			
	TH	W	TUT	Total
Teaching Scheme(Hrs.)	04	00	--	04
Credits Assigned	04	00	--	04
Examination Scheme	Marks			
	CA	ESE	Total	
	70	30	100	

**Course Objectives**

To introduce students to the concept of research particularly in the humanities and social sciences, its modes, along with related approaches and methodologies.

To introduce students to the specific methodologies of research in philosophy and religious studies

To introduce students to the varieties of textuality such as oral sources, primary written sources and secondary sources.

To encourage reflection on the relationship between power, privilege and social

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location on writing in the pursuit of egalitarianism in writing.  
To expose students to the ethics of research such as the challenges of plagiarism and conflict of interests

**Course Outcomes**

At the end of successful completion of the course the student will be able to conduct independent research present its outcome in a suitable format.

This course will enable students registered for MA, MPhil and PhD programmes to conduct academic research independently.

Students will be enabled to contextualize their research.

Module No.	Unit No.	Topics	Hours
1.0		Academic Research: Meaning and Role	24
	1.1	Academic research in philosophy and religious studies	
	1.2	Qualitative and quantitative research; natural science vs social science: methodological debates; data based research in social sciences	
	1.3	Philosophy/religious studies and the social sciences; data, observation and participation; text and their reception; data collection for empirical studies in religion; the diversity of 'text' in philosophical and religious studies	
2.0		Methodologies and Approaches (Philosophy Track OR Religious Studies Track)	12
	2.1	Philosophical methods (I): phenomenology, analysis, standpoint of the reader/observer OR Approaches in religious studies: theological, textual/philological	
	2.2	Philosophical methods (II): empiricism rationalist, exegesis, skepticism OR Approaches in religious studies: archeological, (art) historical, anthropological	
3.0		Hermeneutical Themes	12
	3.1	Reading and interpreting texts in philosophy and religious studies	
	3.2	Methodological hermeneutics, dialogical hermeneutics and critical hermeneutics; is interpretation mandatory? Reading deconstructively.	

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	3.3	Historiography: (i) Buddhist Hermeneutics and Exegesis (ii) 'Scientific' Buddhism as a case study	
4.0		The Ethics of Academic Research	12
	4.1	The ethical preconditions of academic research	
	4.2	The problem of conflict of interest and the freedom of the researcher	
	4.3	The problem of plagiarism and the importance of documentation	
			Total 60 Hours

Paper / Course Code	Paper / Course Title			
126C55W101	Academic Writing			
	TH	W	TUT	Total
Teaching Scheme(Hrs.)	00	01	--	01
Credits Assigned	00	02	--	02
Examination Scheme	Marks			
	CA		Total	
	50		50	

**Workshop: Academic Writing – Following components will be focused in the workshop**

- Academic Writing in Philosophy and Religious Studies – organizing notes, posing questions
- formulating arguments, providing citations and acknowledgements
- Creative Writing – style, rhetoric, and imagination
- Presentation of research: academic papers, documentaries, 'faction'

Recommended books:

Sr. No.	Name/s of Author/s	Title of Book	Name of Publisher with country	Edition and Year of Publication
1.	Carnap, Rudolf	"The Experimental Method" in Philosophical Foundations of Physics: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Science	New York: Basic Books	1966
2.	Collingwood, R.G.	An Essay on Philosophical Method	Oxford: Clarendon Press.	1933

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3.	Datta, D.M.	The Six Ways of Knowing: A Critical Study of the Advaita Theory of Knowledge	Motilal Banarsidass	2017
4.	Dilthey, Wilhelm.	Hermeneutics and the Study of History: Selected Works, Volume IV. Edited by R. A. Makkreel and F. Rodi <u>Marshall</u> )	NJ: Princeton University Press	1996
5.	Gadamer Hans Georg	<u>Truth and Method</u> (second edition trans. Joel Weinscheimer and Donald G	London and New York: Continuum	1989/2004
6.	Harding Sandra	<u>The Science Question in Feminism</u>	Ithaca: Cornell University Press	1986
7.	Hempel, Carl.	“The Function of General Laws in History” in <u>20<sup>th</sup> Century Philosophy: The Analytic Tradition</u> ed. Morris Weitz	New York: The Free Press	1966
8.	Martinich, A.P.	<u>Philosophical Writing: An Introduction</u> (4 <sup>th</sup> Edition)	Blackwell: Malden	2016
9.	Vaughn, Lewis	Writing Philosophy: A Student’s Guide to Writing Philosophy Essays		
10.	Wallerstein, Immanuel et al	<u>Open the Social Sciences: Report of the Gulbenkian Commission on the Restructuring of the Social Sciences</u>	New Delhi: Vistaar Publications	1996
11.	Cabezon, Jose I. and Sheila Greeve Devaney, eds.	Identity and the Politics of Scholarship in the Study of Religion.	New York: Routledge.	2004
12.	Cooper, David	World Philosophies: A Historical Introduction	Wiley-Blackwell	1996/2002
13.	Fitzgerald, Timothy	The Ideology of Religious Studies	Oxford: Oxford University Press	2000
14.	Gokhale, Pradeep	Lokayata/Carvaka: A Philosophical Enquiry	Oxford University Press	2015
15.	Ghosh, Amitav	In an Antique Land	New York: A.A.Knopf	1993
16.	Guru, Gopal	“How Egalitarian are the Social Sciences in India?”	Economic and Political Weekly. Vol. 37, Issue No. 50	2002
17.	Lopez, Donald S.	Buddhist Hermeneutics	Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass	1993
18.	McMahan, David	The Makings of Buddhist Modernism	Oxford: Oxford University Press	2008

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19.	Orsi, Robert A.	“Have You Ever Prayed to Saint Jude?”. In Between Heaven and Earth: The Religious Worlds People Make and the Scholars Who Study Them	Princeton: Princeton University Press	2005
20.	Pink, Sarah	Doing Visual Ethnography: Images, Media and Representation in Research	London: Sage Publications	2001
21.	Schaedler, Luc	Angry Monk: Reflections on Tibet. Literary Historical and Oral Sources for a Documentary Film.	University of Zurich	2007
22.	Sharma, Arvind	Methodology in Religious Studies: The Interface with Women’s Studies	N.Y.: State University of New York Press	2002
23.		MLA Handbook. 8 <sup>th</sup> Edition		