

Research Methodology - Syllabus

Faculty of Law

Total Lecture Hours: 60

Credits: 4

Session	Topics	Hours
Unit I	• Meaning, scope, and characteristics of legal research; doctrinal versus non-doctrinal (empirical/socio-legal) research • Sources of law as research material — primary and secondary sources; legal databases (SCC Online, Manupatra, Hein Online) • Formulating a research problem, research questions, and hypotheses; essentials of literature review • Research design: exploratory, descriptive, analytical, and comparative designs in law	12
Unit II	• Doctrinal methods (statutory interpretation, case analysis, comparative method) and non-doctrinal methods (survey, case study, interview/questionnaire design) • Basics of sampling and qualitative versus quantitative approaches; ethics in fieldwork involving human subjects	12
Unit III	• Data collection and analysis: primary/secondary data sources; qualitative and basic quantitative analysis for legal research • Legal citation systems: Bluebook and OSCOLA essentials; VMRF-DU prescribed citation style	12
Unit IV	• ICT and reference-management tools (Zotero/Mendeley) and plagiarism-detection software; drafting a research synopsis • Research Integrity — Bluebook • Research misconduct: fabrication, falsification, and plagiarism (FFP); UGC/VMRF-DU anti-plagiarism policy	12
Unit V	• Thesis structure and academic legal writing: chaptalization, footnoting, bibliography • Viva-voce preparation and publishing in UGC-CARE/Scopus-indexed journals; peer review process	12

Core Reference Readings

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- S.K. Verma & M. Afzal Wani (eds.), Legal Research and Methodology (Indian Law Institute, latest edition)
 - C.R. Kothari & Gaurav Garg, Research Methodology: Methods and Techniques (New Age International, latest edition)
 - The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation (21st ed.) / OSCOLA — Oxford Standard for Citation of Legal Authorities
 - UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M.Phil./Ph.D. Degrees) Regulations, 2016, as amended