

# Ph.D. COURSEWORK SYLLABUS 2021

Department of Political Science  
Presidency University  
Kolkata



## **SEMESTER 1:**

POLSC1	Philosophy of Social Sciences	(2 credits) (25 marks)
POLSC2	Research and Publication Ethics	(2 credits) (25 marks)
POLSE3	Seminar Paper	(4 credits) (50 marks)

## **SEMESTER 2:**

POLSC4	Research Methods in the Study of Politics	(4 credits) (50 marks)
POLSE5	Upgrade Paper	(4 credits) (50 marks)

## POLSC1: Philosophy of Social Sciences

1. Positivism/ Explanation in Social Sciences
2. History of Philosophy of Science
  - a) Logical Positivism: Vienna Circle
  - b) Falsifiability: Karl Popper
  - c) Scientific Revolution: Thomas Kuhn
  - d) Language Games: Wittgenstein
3. Hermeneutics/ Understanding in Social Sciences
4. Structuralism and Post-structuralism

### **Reading List:**

Auguste Comte, *A General View of Positivism*

Gadamer, *Truth and Method*

Gurpreet Mahajan, *Explanation and Understanding in the Human Sciences*

Jacques Derrida, *Writing and Difference*

Karl Popper, David Miller, *A Pocket Popper*

Louis Althusser, *For Marx*

Ludwig Wittgenstein, *Philosophical Investigations*

Otto Neurath, *Empiricism and Sociology*

Paul Ricoeur, *Time and Narrative*

Quentin Skinner, "Meaning and Understanding in the History of Ideas", *History and Theory*, Vol. 8, No. 1 (1969), pp. 3-53

Quentin Skinner, "The Limits of Historical Explanations", *Philosophy*, Vol. 41, No. 157 (Jul., 1966), pp. 199-215

Richard A. Popkin, *The Columbia History of Western Philosophy*

Sundar Sarukkai, "Mathematisation of Human Sciences: Epistemological Sanskritisation?", *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 30, No. 52 (Dec. 30, 1995), pp. 3357-3360

Thomas S. Kuhn, *The Structure of Scientific Revolution*

## POLS C2: Research and Publication Ethics

1. Philosophy and Ethics
  - a) Introduction to Philosophy: definition, nature and scope, concept, branches
  - b) Ethics: Definition, moral philosophy, nature of moral judgments and reactions
2. Scientific Conduct
  - a) Ethics with respect to science and research
  - b) Intellectual honesty and research integrity
  - c) Scientific misconducts: Falsification, Fabrication and Plagiarism (FFP)

- d) Redundant publications: duplicate and overlapping publications, salami slicing
  - e) Selective reporting and misrepresentation of data
3. Publication Ethics
    - a) Publication ethics: definition, introduction and importance
    - b) Best practices/standards setting initiatives and guidelines: COPE, WAME etc.
    - c) Conflicts of interest
    - d) Publication misconduct: Definition, concept, problems that lead to unethical behavior and vice versa, types
    - e) Violation of publication ethics, authorship and contributorship
    - f) Identification of publication misconduct, complaints and appeals
    - g) Predatory publishers and journals
  4. Open Access Publishing
    - a) Open access publications and initiatives
    - b) SHERPA/RoMEO online resource to check publisher copyright & self-archiving policies
    - c) Software tool to identify predatory publications developed by SPPU: UGC-CARE list of journals
    - d) Journal finder/journal suggestion tools viz. JANE, Elsevier Journal Finder, Springer Journal Suggester, etc.
  5. Publication Misconduct
    - a) Subject specific ethical issues, FFP, authorship
    - b) Conflicts of interest
    - c) Complaints and appeals: examples and fraud from India and abroad
    - d) Software tools (Use of reference management software like Mendeley, Zotero etc. and anti-plagiarism software like Turnitin, Urkund)
  6. Database and Research Metrics
    - a) Indexing databases
    - b) Citation databases: Web of Science, Scopus etc.
    - c) Impact factor of journal as per Journal Citation Report, SNIP, SJR, IPP, CiteScore
    - d) Metrics: h-index, g-index, i-10 index, altmetrics

**Reading List:**

A. Bird, *Philosophy of Science*

Alasdair MacIntyre, *A Short History of Ethics*

D.B. Resnik, *What is Ethics in Research and why it is Important*

Indian National Science Academy, *Ethics in Science Education, Research and Governance*

J. Beall, *Predatory Publishers are Corrupting Open Access*

National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering and Institute of Medicine, *On Being a Scientist: A Guide to Responsible Conduct in Research*  
P. Chaddah, *Ethics in Competitive Research*

### POLSE3: Seminar Paper

It is a reading intensive course which aims at familiarizing research scholars with the existing research on certain themes related to their proposed research topic. The students are expected to engage with the given readings independently, closely and critically, present/ discuss them with the course instructors and submit an analytical write up (literature review) based on them.

### POLSC4: Research Methods in the Study of Politics

1. Researching Politics: Sites and Questions (Choosing a field, review of literature, research gap, research question, hypothesis, operationalization of hypothesis, question of scale of enquiry).
2. Case Study Method: Moving from general to specific, rationale for choosing a case as representative of the question, comparative analysis of two or more cases (inference, falsification).
3. Quantitative Methods: Choosing a sample, interviews and questionnaire, descriptive and inferential statistics, official data sets, data analysis through statistical tools, representation of data, index construction, probability, content analysis.
4. Qualitative Methods: Ethnography, discourse analysis (textual, literary, visual), historical methods (archival, oral history), political personality profiling, case selection.
5. Application of Formal Theories (decision making, game theory, constructivism)
6. Referencing and Bibliography: Styles and nature of referencing, reviewing literature and citations.
7. Computer applications: Software aid for research, data analysis and management, SPSS, Zotero and storing field notes, writing softwares and their use.

### **Reading List:**

Ann Laura Stoler, *Against the Archival Grain*  
B. Devi Prasad, "Content Analysis: A Method in Social Science Research"  
B. Malinowski, *Argonauts of the Western Pacific*  
Bridget Somekh and Cathy Lewin, *Research Methods in the Social Sciences*  
Carlo Ginzburg, *Clues, Myths and Historical Method*

Chicago Style Manual, MLA handbook  
Clifford Geertz, *Balinese Cockfight*  
Douglas Harper, *Visual Sociology: Expanding Sociological Vision*  
Graham Kalton, *Introduction to Survey Sampling*  
James Clifford and Georg Marcus (eds), *Writing Culture: Politics and Poetics of Ethnography*  
Paul Rabinow, *Fieldwork in Morocco*  
Quantitative Methods in Social Research: Topical Bibliography  
<https://www.bl.uk/reshelp/findhelpsubject/socsci/topbib/quantmethods/quantitative.pdf>  
Robert E. Stake, *Case Studies*  
Rodney G. S. Carter, "Of Things Said and Unsaid: Power, Archival Silences, and Power in Silence"  
Roger Pierce, *Research Methods in Politics: A Practical Guide*  
Select articles from *Studies in Indian Politics* (Notes on Method section)  
Urvashi Butalia, *Other Side of Silence: Voices from the Partition of India* (Introduction)

### **POLSE5: Upgrade Paper**

This paper aims at steering the research scholars towards developing their research proposal. In consultation with the course instructor, they will review the existing scholarship and conduct pilot studies. They are expected to submit/ present a detailed research proposal at the end of the semester consisting of literature review, research questions, hypothesis, methodology, plan of work and annotated bibliography, covering all the themes of the proposed research.