

Course Syllabus
Master of International Development Studies
 Faculty of Political Science
 Chulalongkorn University
 Fall 2009

Course title: Research methods in development studies

This course introduces students to a variety of research methods and techniques currently used in social research. It also aims to expose students to as many methods and techniques as possible and to encourage them to apply such methods in development studies-related research. Discussions in the class cover both quantitative and qualitative methods, such as statistical techniques, analysis of quantitative data, exploratory research, social surveys, interviewing, participant-observation, focus group discussion, tracing family's and community's histories, fieldwork, planning and action-related research, and documentary research. All this, in other words, can be roughly categorized into two sets: those relating to the conventional social research and those to development-related issues. Guest lecturers are experienced researchers who will provide background, insights and tips on research methods, data analysis, research application and research conducting-related difficulties.

It should be emphasized that all research methods and techniques demonstrated in this course are "tools" generally used in conducting social research. In addition, there will be research exercise, field practices or field site visits, whose purposes are for students to practice research survey, interviews and participant-observation among the ordinary local people in order to learn more about community's life and development-related problems that may occur in such communities. Students are strongly encouraged to examine any research methods in everyday life's reality and to select the ones suitable for her or his research, or even thesis.

Course objectives:

- To provide students with a basic understanding of socio-cultural research methods related to development studies
- To demonstrate the application of such research methods to development studies
- To offer students an opportunity through field practices and community study to examine the application of such research methods in everyday life's reality and to reexamine the community's problems related with developments
- To assist students to choose and apply or design a methods suitable for their research projects or theses

Course assessment

Course assessment is totally based on assignments, as follows:

1. Class participation and assignments in class (Dr Niti Pawakapan), 40%
 2. Assignment on a particular topic (Dr Niti Pawakapan), 25%
 3. Ajarn Siriwan Siriboon's assignment, 35%
- There are no examinations

Course coordinator: Assistant Professor Dr Niti Pawakapan

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Class: Tuesday, 9.00-12.00

Week 1, 29 September 2009

Session discussions: Introduction to the course, its objectives and approach
Introduction to “research” – what is it?

Lecturer: Dr Niti Pawakapan

Recommended reading:

Pelto, Pertti J. and Gretel H. Pelto, *Anthropological Research: The Structure of Inquiry*.
Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996 (reprinted)

Hammersley, Martyn, *Reading Ethnographic Research: A Critical Guide*. London:
Longman, 1996 (third edition)

Week 2, 6 October 2009

Session discussions: Anthropological research: community study and fieldwork using
anthropological research method, understanding community and
individuals from anthropological perspective
What is “participant observation” and how does one go about doing it?
Is participant observation useful for understanding “development”?

Lecturer: Dr Niti Pawakapan

Assignment topic: Searching for a research topic

Recommended reading:

Mead, Margaret, “Native Languages as Field-Work Tools”, *American Anthropologist*, New
Series, Vol. 41, No. 2 (Apr.-Jun., 1939), pp. 189-205

Kouritzin, Sandra, “The ‘Half-Baked’ Concept of ‘Raw’ Data in Ethnographic Observation”,
Canadian Journal of Education / Revue canadienne de l’éducation, Vol. 27, No. 1 (2002),
pp. 119-138

Bishop, Wendy, “I-Witnessing in Composition: Turning Ethnographic Data into Narratives”,
Rhetoric Review, Vol. 11, No. 1 (Autumn, 1992), pp. 147-158

Week 3, 13 October 2009

Session discussions: Finding research questions

Lecturer: Dr Niti Pawakapan

Assignment topic: Creating research questions

Recommended reading:

Tonkin, Elizabeth, *Narrating Our Pasts: The Social Construction of Oral History*.
Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992 (at CL)

Week 4, 20 October 2009

Session discussions: Creating a research proposal, developing research questions

Lecturer: Dr Puangthong Pawakapan

Recommended reading: To be confirmed by the lecturer

Week 5, 27 October 2009

Session discussions: Working on literature survey, review and criticism

Lecturer: Dr Niti Pawakapan

Assignment topic: Understanding migration from the development studies' perspective (25%; or 15%). Students will conduct literature survey on migration, follow by discussions in class. Topics chosen for literature survey should be: transnationalism, diaspora, human trafficking, migrant workers, women & migration, children & migration.

Week 6, 3 November 2009

Session discussions: Globalisation, consumerism and local responses to global economy and cultural change – understanding the locals and global-local relations from the anthropological perspective

Searching for answers at the local level, local reactions to globalisation

Lecturer: Dr Niti Pawakapan

Assignment topic: Discussions on globalisation versus localisation

Recommended reading: To be confirmed by the lecturer

Week 7, 10 November 2009

Session discussion: Understanding multiculturalism and pluralism

Lecturer: Dr Niti Pawakapan

Assignment topic: Discussions on ethnicity; majority and minority

Recommended reading: To be confirmed by the lecturer

Week 8, 17 November 2009

Session discussion: Understanding “Participatory Approach” as an appropriate research method for community development. The concept of **participatory research** is illustrated. Competing definitions and applications of **RRA**, **PRA**, **PAR** and **PLA** are scrutinized (Part I)

Lecturer: Dr Carl Middleton

Recommended reading: To be confirmed by the lecturer

Week 9, 24 November 2009

Session discussion: Conducting fieldwork (if circumstances are possible)

Lecturer: Dr Niti Pawakapan

Assignment topic: Searching for relevant information and data. Students will learn to interview and to collect information by observation, follow by discussions in class. Topics chosen for interview and observation should be the ones students are able to conduct within or nearby the university.

Week 10, 1 December 2009

Session discussions: Quantitative research
Lecturer: Ajarn Siriwan Siriboon

Recommended reading: To be confirmed by the lecturer
Assignment (35%; or 30%)

Week 11, 8 December 2009
Session discussions: Quantitative research
Lecturer: Ajarn Siriwan Siriboon

Recommended reading: To be confirmed by the lecturer

Week 12, 15 December 2009
Session discussions: Quantitative research, SPSS (if possible)
Lecturer: Ajarn Siriwan Siriboon

Recommended reading: To be confirmed by the lecturer

Week 13, 22 December 2009
Topics: Conducting research: what have we learnt?
Lecturer: Dr Niti Pawakapan

Course recommended reading:

On qualitative and quantitative research

- Creswell, John W., *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches*. Thousand Oaks: SAGE, 2003 (at Pol Reserve)
- Neuman, W. Lawrence, *Social Research Methods: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 2000 (reprinted) (at Pol Reserve)
- Neuman, W. Lawrence, *Basics of Social Research: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches*. Boston: Pearson Allen and Bacon, 2004 (at Pol Reserve)
- Silverman, David, *Qualitative Research: Theory, Method and Practice*. London: SAGE, 2004 (at Pol Reserve)
- Ritchie, Jane, and Jane Lewis (eds.), *Qualitative Research Practice: A Guide for Social Science Students and Researchers*. London: Sage Publications, 2003 (at Pol)
- Yates, Simeon J., *Doing Social Science Research*. London: SAGE, 2004 (at Pol)
- Berg, Bruce L., *Qualitative Research Methods for the Social Sciences*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, c1998 (at CL)
- Gatrell, Jay D., Gregory D. Bierly and Ryan R. Jensen, *Research Design and Proposal Writing in Spatial Science: With 17 Figures and 12 Tables*. New York: Springer, 2005 (at Arts)
- Ruane, Janet M., *Essentials of Research Methods: A Guide to Social Science Research*. Malden: Blackwell, 2005 (at CL)

On ethnographic and anthropological research

- Burgess, Robert G., *In the Field: An Introduction to Field Research*. London: George Allen & Unwin, 1984 (at Pol Reserve)

- Hammersley, Martyn, and Paul Atkinson, *Ethnography: Principles in Practice*. London: Tavistock, 1989 (reprinted) (at Pol Reserve)
- Johnson, Allen W., *Research Methods in Social Anthropology*. London: Edward Arnold, 1978 (at Pol Reserve)
- van Willigen, John, Barbara Rylko-Bauer and Ann McElroy (eds.), *Making Our Research Useful: Case Studies in the Utilization of Anthropological Knowledge*. Boulder: Westview Press, 1989 (at CL)

On oral history research

- Caunce, Stephen, *Oral History and the Local Historian*. Harlow, Essex: Longman, 1994 (at CL)
- Thompson, Paul, *The Voice of the Past: Oral History*. Oxford: Oxford University Press (several editions – 1978, 1988, 2000) (at CL)
- Tonkin, Elizabeth, Maryon McDonald and Malcolm Chapman (eds.), *History and Ethnicity*. London and New York: Routledge, 1989 (at Pol)
- Yow, Valerie Raleigh, *Recording Oral History: A Practical Guide for Social Scientists*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications, 1994 (at CL and Comm)
- Lim, P. Pui Huen, James H. Morrison and Kwa Chong Guan (eds.), *Oral History in Southeast Asia: Theory and Method*. Singapore: National Archives of Singapore and Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, 1998 (at CL and TIC)

On unconventional research, action and participatory research

- Cernea, Michael, M. (ed.), *Putting People First: Sociological Variables in Rural Development*. OUP, 1992
- FAO, *Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation: handbook for Training Field Workers*. Bangkok: FAO, 1990
- Jayakaran, Ravi, *Working with the Urban Poor: Using Participatory Learning and Action (PLA)*, Pune, India: World Vision of India, 1998
- Mikkelsen, Britha, *Methods for Development Work and Research: A Guide for Practitioners*. London: SAGE Publication, 1995
- Whyte, W.F., *Participatory Action Research*. London: SAGE Publications, 1991