

HIS 4501: HISTORY RESEARCH METHODS

Pre-requisite: At least a B+ grade in all courses taken in the third year.

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

The aim of the course is to make students aware of the particular aspects of historical research methods used by historians in studying the past and to enable the students write a viable research proposal and later a well-researched paper in history.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course students will be able to:

- a) understand some basic concepts of research and its methodologies
- b) demonstrate knowledge, understanding, and ability to use different methods of conducting historical research;
- c) identify appropriate research topics
- d) design a viable research proposal;
- e) select and define appropriate research problem and parameters
- f) demonstrate skills of historical research using a variety of sources.
- g) demonstrate ability to use a selected methodology of research and how the data was used.
- h) write a historical research report
- i) organize and conduct research (advanced project) in a more appropriate manner
- j) write a research report and thesis
- k) write a research proposal (grants)

COURSE CONTENT

1. Historiography

- What is Historiography?
- History of historiography
- Significance of historiography
- Basic issues of historiography
- Schools of historiography

2. Historical Research

- Meaning of Historical Research

- Purpose of Historical research
- Steps of Historical Research
- Principles of Research

3. Sources of historical Research

- Primary sources
- Secondary sources
- Evaluation of Primary and Secondary sources

4. Using the Internet as a Resource for Historical Research

- Finding History Resources on the Internet with Search Engines
- Finding Primary and Secondary Sources on the Internet
- Evaluation Criteria for Internet Resources
- Challenges and problems of using Internet for Historical Research

5. Writing a Research Proposal in History

- Beginning the Proposal Process
- Selection of the Research Topic,
- Developing a Research Topic
- Developing a Research Title
- Structure of the Research proposal
- Process of writing a Research proposal
- Common mistakes in proposal writing.

6. Conceptual, Theoretical frameworks and Literature Review

- Framing a conceptual framework
- Formulating a theoretical framework
- Writing a literature review

7. Research Designs and Methodology in History

- Understanding Research Design
- Types of Research Designs
- Understanding Research Methodologies
- Qualitative and Quantitative research designs
- Qualitative and Quantitative research methods

- Qualitative and Quantitative Data Collection and analysis methods
- Methods of researching history
 - Content analysis
 - Archival research
 - Oral interviews in the field
 - Focus group discussion

8. Report writing

- Format and style

Methods of Teaching

Three hours of lectures per week

One hour tutorial per week

Assessment:

One assignment	20%
One Test	10%
Research Proposal	20%
Research Paper:	50%

RECOMMENDED READINGS

Bless, C, & P.W. Achola, **Fundamentals of Social Research Methods: An African Approach**, Lusaka: Government Printer, 1990.

Kombo D. K and Tromp D. L. A., **Proposal and Thesis Writing an Introduction**, Nairobi: Paulines Publications Africa, 2006.

Nachimias, C., and Nachimias, D., **Research Methods in the Social Sciences**, (4th Edition) New York: St. Martin's Press, 1992.

Seeber, Edward D., **A Style Manual for Students**, (Bloomington and London: Indian University Press, 1967).

Turabian, Kate L., **A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations**, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1973.

PRESCRIBED READING:

Henige, D., **Oral Historiography**, London: Longman, 1982.

Ki-Zerbo, J., (ed.), **General History of Africa: I: Methodology and African Prehistory**, Lusaka: UNZA Press & London: James Currey & UNESCO, 1990.

Lemon, M.C., **Philosophy of History: A Guide for Students**, London and New York: Routledge, 2003.

Phiri, B. J., **Researching and Writing History: A Student Guide to Historical Research and Methodology**, (Revised Edition) Lusaka: Mwanjionera Enterprises, 2013.

Pons, V., (ed.), **Introduction to Social Research**, Dar es Salaam: University Press, 1992