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
Contact numbers: 02-2187289 (W), 084-6276652 (HP)
E-mail: niti257@yahoo.co.th
**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:

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:

Week 3, 13 October 2009
Session discussions: Finding research questions
Lecturer: Dr Niti Pawakapan
Assignment topic: Creating research questions

Recommended reading:

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
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)

On ethnographic and anthropological research


**On oral history research**


**On unconventional research, action and participatory research**

Cernea, Michael, M. (ed.), *Putting People First: Sociological Variables in Rural Development*. OUP, 1992


