

Course Aims

The course aims to teach you, in a simple and practical way, how to conduct research in the broad area of social sciences, particularly related to peace. This course does not require that you have prior research methodologies education. The Course will give you a foundation for understanding research methodology, including how to design and structure research, collect and process data. The course will also give you the necessary skills for research report writing and some useful presentation skills for presenting your research to others.

By completing the practicum or independent research, you are able to apply your new knowledge in a practical, field-based research project. Through a practicum, every participant has the opportunity to conduct research of his/ her own preferable research topic (the topics are approved by a supervising committee). Participants have the opportunity to test their understanding and conduct some research they are interested in, in a supportive and educational context.

Course Duration

Lecture period: 12 weeks

Practicum period: 12 weeks

Total course duration: 6 months

Course Structure

The Peace Research Methodologies Course involves coursework based on 12 lectures; a practicum /a supervised individual research project (3 months), and submission of a Research Report based on the practicum.

The following topics are covered during the 12 week course instruction:

- ⇒ Introduction to basic social science
- ⇒ Introduction to the Scientific Approach
- ⇒ Introduction to Peace Theories
- ⇒ Social Science Research Methodology
- ⇒ Foundation of Empirical Research
- ⇒ Design and structure of research
- ⇒ Data Collection
- ⇒ Data Processing
- ⇒ Research Writing Skills
- ⇒ Presentation Skills

Course Outline

During the first 12 weeks of the course, students are provided with an introduction to the areas of social sciences and social science research methodology, with particular relevance to peace. Students are instructed in preparation for their individual research projects. Following the 12 weeks of Instruction students complete their individual research projects (or practicum) under supervision for three month duration.

At the end of the practicum period students write and submit a Research Paper based on the research practicum.

Contact Hours

Contact hours are 3 hours per week, 8.00 am to 11.00 am, for the first 12 weeks. Wherever possible, participants are encouraged to meet once outside of the course contact hours for group work and discussion.

During the practicum period of 3 months, students will conduct individual research independently as required. Students will be able to meet and contact their Supervisor for a minimum of once weekly supervisions.

Students should note that commitment and independent activity are expected and required for completion of the practicum period.

Class Format

Teaching in the initial 2 week course in a seminar format, with emphasis on practical and experiential learning.

Assessment

Student assessments for successful completion will be based on individual research papers and individual presentations during the final Evaluation day.

Please note that students receiving financial concessions who fail to fulfil the practicum research and paper submission course will be required to reimburse the total course costs.



Accreditation

The Course is a Certificate Course. Graduates' Research Papers will be published under the auspices of the ACT Research Program. Successful graduates are also recognized as Associated Researchers (on a Consultancy Basis) by ACT for a six-month period.

Admission Requirements

Eligible applicants must normally be university-level students or experienced practitioners. Applicants must be working or studying or strongly interested in the broad field of peace studies or peace-related work.

Commencement

As indicated in course announcement through leaflet, newsletter or newspaper

Application Details

Application forms are available from, and should be submitted to, the Alliance for Conflict Transformation.

Fees

The Course Fee is US\$700

The Fee includes:

- Course Manual; including all required readings
- 52 hours of Instruction
- 3 months of Supervision for applied research activity
- 3 month individual Research Fund of \$300

Consideration will be given to applicants with financial restraints. Applicants can apply to ACT to pay a reduced fee.

Applicants employed by peace-related organizations are encouraged to seek funding from their organisations.

PEACE RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES COURSE

The study of social science research methods and their application within peace studies and peace research; paradigms and values in the social sciences.

Course Objectives

The purpose of the Peace Research Methodologies course is to promote research activity amongst peace practitioners. The course is designed to provide: (i) a basic grounding in the theoretical, conceptual and empirical foundations of research methods for the social sciences; (ii) supervised practical experience; (iii) further future professional research activities via the network unit at ACT.

