**EHR 2201 Research Methods**

**Course description**

The course will involve examination of different methods that are vital to acquisition as well as dissemination of knowledge of ethics and human rights. Both approaches to analysis and synthesis namely, quantitative and qualitative approaches in gathering data will be examined. Definition of research, function and types of research; sampling techniques, questionnaires, interviews, mail questionnaires, response errors, experiments in research, observation, study of documents, measuring methods, scaling methods, will be studied. Definition of problem formulation and verification of hypothesis, collection and recording of data, library research, bibliographies, notes and references, Field research, writing and presentation of dissertations, research ethics, informed consent, protection of confidentiality, right to recognition, giving credits) will be examined.

**Course objectives**

The course will help the students to understand the principles of quantitative and qualitative research. The course aims at equipping students with necessary tools in conducting personal research leading to a publishable thesis. It is aimed at helping them to distinguish between types of research methods and designs and the application of theoretical and conceptual frameworks and how exploring ways of applying them to research. It also helps them develop research proposals.

**Learning objectives**

By the end of the course, students will:

1. Be able to differentiate between quantitative and qualitative research methodologies
2. Acquire knowledge of research tools
3. Be able to identify a research problem and raising research questions
4. Be able to develop a research proposal
5. Be able to assess the principles of research ethics
6. Be able to write a research report

**Course Outline**

1. Research: definition , function, types
2. Principles of social and applied research
3. Quantitative research methods
4. Qualitative research methods
5. Conceptual and theoretical frame works
6. Introduction to feminist epistemology and critique of science
7. Proposal writing
8. Thesis writing
9. Validity and reliability
10. Research ethics
11. Citation and referencing

**Methodology**

The facilitator(s) will employ the following methods; lectures, seminars, question and answer, demonstration, expert talks, group discussions, brain storming.

**Assessment Mode**

Take home exercise 15%

Practical exercise test 15%

End of semester examination 70%

**Reading list**

Giddens A., 1992, *Profiles and Critiques in Social Theory*, Macmillan Press

David Silverman, 2004, *Doing Qualitative Research*, Sage Publications Ltd

Robert M. Thomas, 2003, *Blending Qualitative and Quantitative Research*, Corwin Press.

Kvale S., 1996, *Interviews: An introduction to Qualitative Research Interviewing*, Sage Publishers.

Elliot D. & J. Stern, ed, *Research Ethics: A Reader*, Institute for the Study of Applied and Professional Ethics, Dartmouth College.

Morgan, G. Ed., 1993, *Beyond Method: Strategies for Social Research*, Sage

Bordens, K.S. & Abbott, B.B., 1998, *Research Design and Methods: A Process Approach*, Mayfield.

Foddy, W., 1994, *Constructing Questions for Interviews and Questionnaires*, Melbourne: Cambridge University Press.

Miles Matthew, Huberman Michael, 1994, *Qualitative Data Analysis*, Sage