O.P. JINDAL GLOBAL UNIVERSITY
INSTITUTION OF EMINENCE DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY
A Private University Promoting Public Service

I.D.E.A.S.
OFFICE of INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Online Certificate Course

"QUALITATIVE RESEARCH IN DEVELOPMENT SETTINGS"

Development policies and programmes are built on assumptions about people's lives, yet numbers alone rarely explain why interventions succeed, fail, or produce unexpected outcomes. This short course introduces qualitative research as a way of understanding development from the perspective of the people it affects.

Over eight sessions, participants will explore why qualitative approaches matter in development, how to conduct research ethically and reflexively, and how to prepare for and work in the field. The course covers core methods, including in-depth interviews, focus group discussions, observation and ethnography, as well as narrative and participatory approaches such as testimonials and participatory action research. Drawing on anthropological and interdisciplinary readings, the course combines lectures with a student-led case presentation session and a closing session of reflection and feedback.

1 Nov- 30 Nov 2026 | 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM (IST)

INSTRUCTORS



Dr. Gayatri Balu
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, IDEAS



Tahiba Banu
LECTURER, IDEAS

Total Sessions: 8 (Tuesdays and Thursdays), approximately 16 contact hours.
Eligibility: A recently completed or ongoing Bachelor's degree in any social science

Participants who complete all evaluation components and maintain the required attendance will receive an official Certificate of Completion issued by the Office of Interdisciplinary Studies (IDEAS), O.P. Jindal Global University.

Register Now the QR Code

DETAILS OF THE COURSE

The information below is the official record of the course details

Course title	Qualitative Research in Development Settings
Offered by	Office of Interdisciplinary Studies (IDEAS), O.P. Jindal Global University
Instructors	Gayatri Balu and Tahiba Banu
Type of course	Short-term course
Duration	8 sessions over approximately 4 weeks
Frequency	2 classes per week
Session length	2 hours per class
Total contact hours	16 hours
Medium of instruction	English
Venue / platform	Online
Start and end dates	To be confirmed
Class days and time	To be confirmed
Registration deadline	To be confirmed

COURSE STRUCTURE

The course has eight sessions of two hours each, held twice a week over approximately four weeks. The sessions are grouped as: one foundations block, one fieldwork block, an interim feedback and sharing session, and closing blocks on analysis and applied research. Session 5 is reserved for feedback and sharing and has no new anchor reading.

COURSE AT A GLANCE

Session	Topic
1	Why Qualitative Research in Development? Foundations
2	Ethics, Positionality and Reflexivity in Development Research
3	Understanding the Field and Designing Fieldwork
4	Cases in Practice: Student Presentations and Midcourse Reflections
5	Talking with People: In-depth Interviews and Focus Group Discussions
6	Observation, Ethnography and Other Ways of Being in the Field
7	Telling the Story: Narratives, Testimonials, Participatory Action Research and Course Synthesis
8	Closing the Loop: Reflections, Co-creation and Feedback

GENERAL TEXTBOOKS ON QUALITATIVE RESEARCH

- These textbooks are reference books for participants. Segments may be assigned as core readings for specific sessions.
- Flick, U. (2009). An introduction to qualitative research (4th ed.). Sage Publications.
- Clifford Geertz, “Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese Cockfight” (1973)
- Denzin, N. K., & Lincoln, Y. S. (Eds.). (2011). The Sage handbook of qualitative research. Sage.
- Ritchie, J., Ormston, R., McNaughton Nicholls, C., & Lewis, J. (2013). Qualitative research practice: A guide for social science students and researchers. SAGE Publications Ltd.
- Gillian Rose, “Situating Knowledges: Positionality, Reflexivities and Other Tactics” (1997)
- James Spradley, The Ethnographic Interview (1979)

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND HONESTY

Qualitative research needs a firm grasp of concepts alongside practical methods. It calls for an active and curious learner who is invested in both the process and the outcome of inquiry, and who engages with everyday surroundings as part of learning. Discussions are enriched by prior reading and preparation, and the course depends on active participation, observation and critical thinking.

All written work must be the participant’s own. Because qualitative research rests on the researcher’s own observation, interpretation and judgement, AI tools should be used minimally and thoughtfully, and their use must be disclosed. Participants are responsible for protecting the identity and confidentiality of anyone who appears in their fieldwork material.

ELIGIBILITY AND PREREQUISITES

- Participants should keep their cameras on where possible, mute when not speaking, and keep to the shared time schedule.
- Phones and other devices should not be used for anything unrelated to the session. Social media and real-time searches during discussion are discouraged unless the instructor asks for them for educational purposes.
- Recording of sessions, and sharing of fieldwork material or discussions outside the class, is not permitted without permission.

INSTRUCTORS



Prof. (Dr.) Gayatri Balu

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, IDEAS

Gayatri Balu is Assistant Professor at IDEAS, Office of Interdisciplinary Studies. She is an academic and researcher specialising in gender studies, feminist politics and development. She was previously Assistant Professor at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. Gayatri holds a PhD in Gender Studies from Jawaharlal Nehru University and has worked at IIT Delhi, the Society for Social and Economic Research and the Odisha Livelihoods Mission. Her research explores gender and religion and gendered labour, and addresses gender imbalances in STEM and women's land ownership rights.



Tahiba Banu

LECTURER, IDEAS

Tahiba Banu is Lecturer at IDEAS, Office of Interdisciplinary Studies. She holds an M.Phil. and an MA in Sociology from the Delhi School of Economics and has taught at Lady Shri Ram College for Women and Miranda House, University of Delhi. Her work focuses on economic sociology, caste, labour, gender and violence, and social movements. Tahiba has contributed to curriculum development, research supervision and community-based literacy programmes.

I.D.E.A.S. *at a* GLANCE

IDEAS OFFICE OF INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

100+ Ideas Advisory Council

80+ Research and Publications

31+ Research Follow

10+ Collaborative Projects

10+ Core Faculty

10+ Institutional Partnership

6+ Initiatives

6+ Member Associates

6+ Research Constellations

ABOUT US

The Office of Interdisciplinary Studies (IDEAS) at O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU) serves as a university-wide platform for fostering interdisciplinary teaching, research, and community engagement across the social sciences. It brings together scholars, students, and practitioners to co-create knowledge and develop innovative responses to complex real-world challenges.

At its core, IDEAS operates as an intellectual incubator, supporting collaborative scholarship, experimental pedagogy, and research that transcends traditional disciplinary boundaries. Through its initiatives and field-based programmes, it promotes critical inquiry, applied learning, and engagement with pressing development concerns.

With a strong emphasis on interdisciplinary dialogue, global academic exchange, and community-linked research, IDEAS aims to cultivate a dynamic academic environment that connects theory with practice and advances socially relevant scholarship

Sonipat-131001, (NCR of Delhi)

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