**MATUL 511 Research Methodology**

**(3credits)**

**Course purpose**

To provide students with research knowledge and skills to enable them to carry out Action Research projects that can contribute to the transformation of urban slums and informal settlements.

###### Expected Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course the students should be able to:

***Cognitive***

1. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the various theoretical constructs in Action Research.
2. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the ethical issues involved in a research process

***Affective***

1. Demonstrate critical awareness of their own subjectivity within a research process

***Skills***

1. Utilize knowledge and skills in Action Research to carry out Action Research projects related to studies in various communities.
2. Apply the findings of Action Research to promote improvement in the lives of residents of marginalised urban communities.

###### Course Content:

Introduction to research methodology; Ethical issues in research, Understanding Action Research; Action Research within the larger gamut of research designs; Major Features of Action Research (collaboration, spiral-praxis movement, and social transformation); Identifying Action Research problems, Action Research Methodology (The first cycle-Action, The second cycle- Reflection, The third cycle-Improved Action); Writing and disseminating the Action Research findings.

**Teaching Methodology:**

Lectures, library research, seminars, group discussions, tutorials, and a pilot study for Action Research projects

**Instructional Materials/Equipment:**

Whiteboard, flipcharts, LCD, O/Head projection, textbooks, journals, and the Internet

**Student Assessment:**

The course will be assessed through conducting a pilot action research project (50%) and the production of a research proposal which will form the basis of the Research Project (50%).

###### Core Texts:

1. Argyris, C. and Schön, D. A. 1991. Participatory action research and action science compared. In W. F. Whyte (Ed), *Participatory action research.* Newbury Park: Sage.

###### Coghlan, David. 2005. Doing Action Research in your Own Organization.

1. Fals-Borda, O. & Rahman, M. A. (Eds). 1991. *Action and knowledge: Breaking the monopoly with participatory action research.* New York: Apex Press, and London: Intermediate Technology Publications. **Highly Recommended. Since it contains several other pertinent papers on action research.**

***Further Reading:***

***Journals***

1. Akong’a, J. 1991. Participatory-action research in the development process. In O. Cheitere and R. Mutiso (Eds), *Working with rural communities: A participatory action research in Kenya* (pp. 57-66). Nairobi: University of Nairobi Press.
2. Bartunek, J. M. 1993. Scholarly dialogues and participatory action research. *Human Relations,* 46 (10): 1221-1233.
3. Chesler, M. A. 1991. Participatory action research with self help groups: An alternative paradigm for inquiry and action. *American Journal of Community Psychology,* 19 (5): 757-768.
4. Cornwall, A. & Jewkes, R. What is participatory research? *Social Science and Medicine*, 41 (2): 1667-1676.
5. Dugan, S. 1993. Reflections on helping: A perspective on participatory action research. *International Journal on Public Administration*, 16 (11): 1715-1733.
6. Elden, M. & Chisholm, R. F. 1993. Emerging varieties of action research: Introduction to the special issue. *Human Relations,* 46 (2): 121-142.
7. Fals-Borda, O. 1984. Participatory action research. Development: Seeds of Change, 2: 18-20.
8. Greenwood, D. J. et al. 1993. Participatory action research as a process and as a goal. *Human Relations*, 46 (2): 175-192.
9. McTaggart, R. 1991. Principles for participatory action research. *Adult Education Quarterly,* 41 (3): 168-187.
10. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. 1994. Participatory action research: Issues in theory and practice. Educational Action Research, 2 (3): 313-337.
11. Morton-Cooper, Allison. 2000. *Action Research in Health Care*
12. Rahnema, M. 1990. Participatory action research: The “last temptation of Saint” development. Alternatives, 15: 199-226.
13. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. 1993. Sitting between appreciation and disappointment: A Critique of the special edition of *Human Relations* on action research. *Human Relations,* 46 (10): 1253-1270.
14. Sarri, R. C. & Sarri, C. M. 1992. Organizational and community change through participatory action research. *Administration in Social Work*, 16 (3/4): 99-122.
15. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. 1994. *Participant observer: An autobiography.* New York: ILR.
16. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. 1995. Encounters with participatory action research. *Qualitative Sociology,* 18 (3): 289-299.
17. Rahnema, M. 1994. Three approaches to participatory inquiry. In N. K. Denzin and Y. S. Lincoln (Eds), *Handbook of Qualitative Research.* Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. **Highly recommended.**
18. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. 1993. *People’s self-development: Perspectives on participatory action research.* London & New Jersey: Zed.
19. Reason, P. 1988. *Human inquiry in action: Developments in new paradigm research.* London: Sage.
20. Reason, P. & Rowan J. 1981. *Human inquiry: A sourcebook of new paradigm research*. Chichester: Wiley.
21. Stringer, Ernest. 2005. Action Research. London: Sage.
22. Swantz, M. L. & Vainio-Mattila, A. 1988. Participatory inquiry as an instrument of grassroots development. In Reason, P. & Rowan J. *Human inquiry in action: Developments in new paradigm research*. London: Sage.
23. Whyte, W. F. (ed). *Participatory action research.* Newbury Park, CA: Sage.

***Websites***

<http://www.ualberta.ca/~jrnorris/actres.html>

<http://www.imc.org.uk/imc/coursewa/alr/research/essentials.htm>