

SANT GADGE BABA AMRAVATI UNIVERSITY, AMRAVATI

**COMPREHENSIVE ACADEMIC FRAMEWORK FOR PH.D. COURSEWORK IN
LAW**

**(Syllabus, Teaching-Learning, Research Activities, Evaluation and
Assessment Mechanism for Paper II, III & IV)**

For Paper – I & Paper V See Direction No. 26 of 2026 dt. .06.2026

PAPER – II

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY COURSE (Law)

Credits: 2

Teaching Hours: 30 (15 Lectures × 2 Credits)

Maximum Marks: 100

Evaluation: Continuous Internal Assessment

OBJECTIVES

The course aims to enable the Research Scholar to:

1. Understand the philosophy and methodology of legal research.
2. Develop the ability to identify and formulate research problems.
3. Design doctrinal, empirical and interdisciplinary legal research.
4. Conduct systematic review of literature.
5. Develop research instruments.
6. Collect, analyse and interpret legal and empirical data.
7. Draft a research proposal and prepare for doctoral research.
8. Use digital databases and AI tools responsibly for legal research.

COURSE OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, the scholar shall be able to:

- Formulate a research problem and research gap.
- Prepare research questions and hypotheses.
- Conduct doctrinal and empirical legal research.
- Review and synthesize literature.
- Develop research instruments such as questionnaires and interview schedules.
- Analyse research data.
- Draft a doctoral research proposal.
- Present and defend a research design before peers and faculty.

UNIT-WISE DISTRIBUTION

Unit	Title	Lectures
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Unit	Title	Lectures
I	Nature and Process of Legal Research	5
II	Research Design and Research Proposal	5
III	Review of Literature and Research Resources	5
IV	Data Collection, Research Tools and Analysis	5
V	Legal Writing, Citation and Research Communication	5
VI	Practical Research Laboratory	5
Total		30

PRACTICAL LEARNING MECHANISM

Unlike a traditional course, every unit should culminate in a **research deliverable** that becomes part of the scholar's portfolio.

Unit Deliverable

- I Research Problem Note
- II Draft Research Proposal
- III Literature Review Matrix
- IV Research Instruments & Pilot Data
- V Citation & Academic Writing Portfolio
- VI Final Research Proposal Presentation

DETAILED EVALUATION MECHANISM

Rather than one examination, assessment should measure actual research competence.

Component A: Classroom Engagement (10 Marks)

Activity	Marks
Attendance	5
Academic Participation	5

Component B: Weekly Research Assignments (30 Marks)

Each assignment carries **5 marks**.

Assignment	Marks
Identify five potential research problems and justify the selection of one	5
Draft research questions, objectives and hypotheses	5
Prepare a concept note (800–1000 words)	5

Assignment	Marks
Identify ten landmark judgments and five statutes relevant to the proposed topic	5
Prepare a bibliography using the prescribed citation style	5
Search and retrieve literature from legal databases (SCC Online, Manupatra, HeinOnline, JSTOR, Shodhganga, etc.) and document the search strategy	5

Component C: Practical Research Exercises (30 Marks)

Practical Exercise	Marks
Prepare a Review of Literature (minimum 20 scholarly sources with critical synthesis, not merely summaries)	5
Prepare an Annotated Bibliography (minimum 25 references)	5
Design a Questionnaire or Interview Schedule (as applicable to the research design)	5
Develop a Google Form or equivalent digital survey instrument and conduct a pilot study with at least 10 responses	5
Present pilot data in tabular and graphical form (Excel or equivalent) with brief interpretation	5
Prepare a Research Methodology Chapter (covering research design, sampling, methods, ethics, limitations, and timeline)	5

Component D: Research Colloquium (10 Marks)

Each scholar shall deliver **one seminar presentation** (10–12 minutes) followed by discussion.

Suggested themes:

- Why is my research significant?
- Doctrinal versus Empirical Legal Research.
- Comparative Legal Research.
- Law and Technology.
- AI in Legal Research.
- Constitutional Research Methodology.
- Mixed Methods Research in Law.
- Challenges in Socio-Legal Research.

Evaluation Rubric

Criterion	Marks
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Criterion	Marks
Subject Knowledge	2
Analytical Ability	2
Research Design	2
Response to Questions	2
Presentation Skills	2

Component E: Viva-Voce (10 Marks)

The scholar shall defend:

- Research Problem
- Research Gap
- Objectives
- Methodology
- Proposed Sources
- Ethical Considerations

Criterion	Marks
Conceptual Clarity	3
Feasibility of Research Design	3
Response to Questions	2
Academic Confidence	2

Component F: Final Portfolio (10 Marks)

Each scholar shall submit a bound or digital portfolio containing:

1. Research Problem Statement.
2. Research Gap Analysis.
3. Research Questions.
4. Objectives.
5. Hypotheses (where applicable).
6. Scope and Limitations.
7. Literature Review Matrix.
8. Annotated Bibliography.
9. Questionnaire/Interview Schedule.
10. Google Form (printout or link).
11. Pilot Data.
12. Tables and Graphs.
13. Draft Research Methodology.
14. Research Proposal (approximately 3,000–5,000 words).

15. Reflective Learning Note (500 words).

FINAL MARKING SCHEME

Component	Marks
Attendance & Participation	10
Weekly Research Assignments	30
Practical Research Exercises	30
Research Colloquium	10
Viva-Voce	10
Final Research Portfolio	10
Total	100

STANDARD RUBRICS

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All written work should be assessed using the following criteria:

1. Originality and Innovation
2. Understanding of Research Methodology
3. Critical Analysis
4. Use of Legal Authorities and Literature
5. Structure, Language and Academic Writing
6. Citation and Referencing

Expected Competencies on Completion

A research scholar who successfully completes this paper should be able to independently:

- Identify a significant legal research problem.
- Conduct a structured review of literature.
- Locate and analyse primary and secondary legal sources.
- Develop doctrinal, empirical or mixed-method research designs.
- Prepare ethically sound research instruments.
- Collect and present pilot data.
- Draft a research proposal ready for submission to the Research Advisory Committee (RAC).
- Confidently present and defend the proposed research before peers and faculty.

PH.D. COURSE WORK
PAPER – III
RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP, TEACHING APPRENTICESHIP, CASE STUDY &
RESEARCH PROJECT

Course Code: To be assigned by University

Credits: 4

Teaching Hours: 30

Practical/Field Work: 30

Total Contact Hours: 60

Maximum Marks: 100

Evaluation: Continuous Internal Assessment

PREAMBLE

Doctoral education requires scholars to develop competencies beyond research methodology. A Ph.D. scholar is expected to conduct independent research, assist in research projects, participate in teaching-learning processes, undertake legal analysis, organise academic activities, communicate research findings effectively, and contribute to institutional research culture.

This paper provides structured experiential learning through research assistantship, teaching apprenticeship, legal drafting, case studies, academic event management, and community-oriented legal research.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The scholar shall be able to

1. Develop practical research competencies.
2. Assist faculty members in research and academic activities.
3. Acquire university-level teaching skills.
4. Conduct doctrinal and empirical legal projects.
5. Analyse legal issues through case studies.
6. Develop academic leadership and teamwork.
7. Learn project planning and execution.
8. Improve communication and presentation skills.

COURSE OUTCOMES

After completion of this paper the scholar shall be able to

- Assist in research projects.
- Conduct tutorial classes.
- Design classroom activities.
- Prepare teaching material.
- Analyse complex legal problems.
- Conduct field-based legal research.
- Organise academic events.

- Write project reports.
- Present research professionally.

UNIT-WISE DISTRIBUTION

Unit	Title	Lectures	Practical
I	Research Assistantship	5	5
II	Teaching Apprenticeship	5	5
III	Case Study and Legal Analysis	5	5
IV	Research Project & Field Work	5	5
V	Academic Leadership & Extension Activities	5	5
VI	Portfolio, Reflection & Presentation	5	5
Total		30	30

UNIT-I

Research Assistantship

Topics

- Role of Research Assistant
- Research Planning
- Collecting Legal Materials
- Case Law Compilation
- Statutory Compilation
- Literature Search
- Citation Verification
- Data Collection
- Data Organisation
- Maintaining Research Records

Practical Activities

Each scholar shall complete any **five** of the following:

- ✓ Compile 25-50 Supreme Court decisions on the proposed research topic.
- ✓ Prepare a Chronology of Legislative Developments.
- ✓ Prepare a Digest of 25 landmark judgments.
- ✓ Develop a database of research articles.
- ✓ Verify citations in an existing research article.
- ✓ Prepare a comparative table of statutes or policies.

UNIT-II

Teaching Apprenticeship

Every Ph.D. scholar should acquire university teaching competencies.

Practical Activities

Each scholar shall:

- Deliver two classroom lectures (20–30 minutes each) to LL.B./LL.M. students under faculty supervision.
- Prepare a detailed lesson plan for each lecture.
- Design PowerPoint slides and teaching materials.
- Frame five learning outcomes for the class.
- Prepare ten tutorial questions.
- Conduct one tutorial or discussion session.
- Reflect on feedback received.

Evaluation Criteria

- Subject Knowledge
- Communication
- Classroom Management
- Student Engagement
- Use of Teaching Aids
- Ability to answer questions

UNIT–III

Case Study & Legal Analysis

Activities

Each scholar shall undertake three comprehensive case studies.

The studies may involve:

- Constitutional issues
- Criminal justice
- Environmental law
- Human rights
- Consumer protection
- Corporate governance
- Public policy
- Cyber law
- Family law
- Intellectual Property

Suggested Framework

1. Facts
2. Legal Issues
3. Statutory Framework
4. Judicial Reasoning
5. Critical Analysis
6. Comparative Perspective
7. Implications for Future Research

UNIT–IV

Research Project & Field Work

Each scholar shall undertake **one Mini Research Project**.

Examples

- Legal Awareness Survey
- Access to Justice Study
- Consumer Awareness
- Prison Visit Report
- Court Observation
- ADR Centre Study
- Lok Adalat Evaluation
- Police Station Observation
- Legal Aid Clinic Assessment
- Digital Governance Study

Deliverables

- Proposal
- Research Instrument
- Data Collection
- Data Analysis
- Tables
- Graphs
- Findings
- Recommendations

UNIT-V

Academic Leadership & Extension

Every scholar shall participate in academic administration.

Suggested activities

- Organising Seminar
- Organising Workshop
- Conducting Conference
- Preparing Proceedings
- Managing Registration
- Rapporteur Work
- Drafting Reports
- Newsletter Preparation
- Research Newsletter
- Legal Awareness Camp
- Legal Aid Programme
- Community Outreach

UNIT-VI

Portfolio & Presentation

Each scholar shall prepare

A Comprehensive Research Portfolio.

It should include

- Teaching Plan
- Lesson Notes
- Case Studies
- Project Report
- Research Diary
- Field Notes
- Photographs (where applicable)
- Reflection Report
- Certificates
- Seminar Participation
- Extension Activities

Finally

Every scholar shall make a 15-minute presentation before a Departmental Evaluation Committee.

CONTINUOUS INTERNAL ASSESSMENT

Component A

Attendance and Participation

Activity	Marks
Attendance	5
Participation	5

Component B

Research Assistantship

Activity	Marks
Case Law Compilation	5
Legislative Compilation	5
Literature Database	5
Citation Verification	5
Research Records	5
Subtotal	25

Component C

Teaching Apprenticeship

Activity	Marks
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Activity	Marks
Lesson Plan	3
Lecture Delivery	6
Teaching Material	3
Tutorial Conduct	3
Reflective Note	5
Subtotal	20

Component D

Case Study

Activity	Marks
Case Study I	5
Case Study II	5
Case Study III	5
Subtotal	15

Component E

Mini Research Project

Activities	Marks
Research Design	5
Data Collection	5
Analysis	5
Report Writing	5
Subtotal	20

Component F

Portfolio & Presentation

Activity	Marks
Portfolio	5
Final Presentation	5
Viva	5
Community/Extension Participation	5
Subtotal	20

FINAL MARKING SCHEME

Component	Marks
Attendance & Participation	10

Component	Marks
Research Assistantship	25
Teaching Apprenticeship	20
Case Studies	15
Mini Research Project	20
Portfolio, Presentation & Viva	10
Total	100

PH.D. COURSE WORK

PAPER – IV

REVIEW PAPER, ACADEMIC WRITING AND SCHOLARLY PUBLICATION

Course Code: To be assigned

Credits: 2

Teaching Hours: 30

Maximum Marks: 100

Evaluation: Continuous Internal Assessment

PREAMBLE

Publication is an essential component of doctoral research. Every Ph.D. scholar should possess the ability to critically review literature, identify research gaps, prepare scholarly manuscripts, respond to reviewers' comments, and publish research ethically in quality journals.

This course provides systematic training in literature review, academic writing, publication ethics, peer review, manuscript preparation, referencing, and dissemination of research.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The course aims to enable scholars to:

1. Conduct systematic review of literature.
2. Identify research gaps.
3. Prepare publishable review papers.
4. Develop academic writing skills.
5. Understand journal publication procedures.
6. Respond to peer review.
7. Prepare policy briefs and research summaries.
8. Communicate research effectively.

COURSE OUTCOMES

After completion of the course the scholar shall be able to:

- Conduct systematic literature review.
- Prepare annotated bibliography.
- Write review articles.
- Prepare publishable manuscripts.
- Select suitable journals.
- Respond to reviewers.
- Edit academic manuscripts.
- Present research professionally.

UNIT-WISE DISTRIBUTION

Unit	Title	Lectures
I	Literature Review Methodology	5

Unit	Title	Lectures
II	Academic Writing & Scholarly Communication	5
III	Manuscript Preparation & Referencing	5
IV	Journal Publication Process	5
V	Editing, Peer Review & Research Communication	5
VI	Publication Workshop	5
Total		30

UNIT-I

Literature Review Methodology

Topics

- Meaning and purpose of literature review
- Narrative Review
- Systematic Review
- Scoping Review
- Meta-analysis (introductory)
- Research Gap Identification
- Literature Mapping
- Literature Matrix
- Conceptual Framework

Practical

Prepare A Literature Matrix containing Minimum 40 Research Articles classified according to:

- Theme
- Methodology
- Findings
- Research Gap
- Future Scope

UNIT-II

Academic Writing

Topics

- Structure of Research Paper
- Abstract
- Keywords
- Introduction
- Literature Review
- Methodology
- Findings
- Discussion

- Conclusion
- Recommendations
- Policy Implications

Practical

Prepare

1. One Abstract
2. One Executive Summary
3. One Extended Abstract
on your research topic.

UNIT-III

Manuscript Preparation

Topics

- Journal Guidelines
- Formatting
- Citation
- Footnotes
- Tables
- Graphs
- Figures
- Appendices
- Reference Management Software
- Proof Reading

Practical

Each scholar shall prepare a complete manuscript of 5000–7000 words following the author guidelines of a selected journal.

UNIT-IV

Journal Publication

Topics

- Selecting Journal
- Predatory Journal
- Peer Review
- Copyright
- DOI
- ORCID
- Researcher ID
- Cover Letter
- Submission Process
- Revision
- Acceptance

- Publication

Practical

Each scholar shall:

- Register for ORCID (or prepare the profile if institutional procedures require faculty guidance).
- Identify five suitable journals in the research area.
- Compare them on scope, indexing, review process, publication timelines, and author guidelines.
- Draft a cover letter for journal submission.

UNIT-V

Editing & Peer Review

Topics

- Reviewing Manuscript
- Editorial Process
- Reviewer Comments
- Revision
- Proof Correction
- Academic Editing
- Grammar
- Style
- Research Integrity

Practical

Every scholar shall Peer-review Two manuscripts prepared by fellow scholars.

UNIT-VI

Publication Workshop

Every scholar shall prepare One Review Paper on his/her proposed research topic.

Minimum:

6000-8000 words

The Research Centre shall organise A Publication Workshop where every scholar shall present the paper.

CONTINUOUS INTERNAL EVALUATION

Component A

Attendance & Participation

Activity	Marks
Attendance	5
Participation	5

Component B

Literature Review

Activity	Marks
Literature Matrix	5
Annotated Bibliography	5
Research Gap Analysis	5
Concept Map	5
Subtotal	20

Component C
Academic Writing

Activity	Marks
Abstract	3
Executive Summary	3
Introduction	4
Review Paper Draft	10
Subtotal	20

Component D
Publication Skills

Activity	Marks
Journal Comparison	5
Cover Letter	5
ORCID / Author Profile	2
Manuscript Formatting	3
Subtotal	15

Component E
Peer Review

Activity	Marks
Review of Paper I	5
Review of Paper II	5
Response to Reviewer Comments	5
Subtotal	15

Component F
Final Review Paper

Activity	Marks
Quality of Review Paper	15

Activity	Marks
Seminar Presentation	5
Viva	5
Subtotal	25

FINAL MARKING SCHEME

Component	Marks
Attendance & Participation	10
Literature Review	20
Academic Writing	20
Publication Skills	15
Peer Review	15
Final Review Paper & Presentation	20
Total	100

STANDARD EVALUATION RUBRIC

Criterion	Marks
Breadth and relevance of literature reviewed	15
Identification of research gap	15
Critical synthesis and analysis	20
Quality of academic writing	15
Citation and referencing accuracy	10
Originality and scholarly contribution	15
Presentation and response during seminar/viva	10
Total	100

MANDATORY OUTPUTS

Every scholar shall submit:

1. Systematic Literature Review Matrix (minimum 40 scholarly sources).
2. Annotated Bibliography (minimum 50 references using the prescribed citation style).
3. Research Gap Statement (approximately 1,000 words).
4. Journal Comparison Report (five journals).
5. Complete Review Paper (6,000–8,000 words) conforming to a selected journal's author guidelines.
6. Peer Review Reports on two manuscripts prepared by fellow scholars.
7. Revised Manuscript incorporating reviewer comments.

8. Presentation Slides for the Publication Workshop.
9. Reflective Note on the publication and peer-review process.

OPTIONAL ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

To strengthen scholarly communication, the Department may also require each scholar to complete **any two** of the following:

- Prepare a policy brief based on the review paper.
- Record a 10-minute research presentation (video) for academic dissemination.
- Prepare a conference poster.
- Develop an infographic summarizing the literature review.
- Draft a blog post translating the research for a general audience.
- Prepare a lay summary (500 words) explaining the research in simple language.

These activities enhance communication skills and help scholars engage with diverse audiences.

Miscellaneous

Note : Common Provision regarding Consolidation and Submission of Marks for Paper-II, Paper III, Paper – IV.

Notwithstanding the different evaluation components prescribed under individual Papers of the Ph.D. Coursework, the Research Centre shall consolidate the marks obtained by each Research Scholar in all prescribed evaluation components of each paper and shall forward only the final consolidated marks obtained by the Research Scholar, out of the total marks prescribed for the respective paper, to the Ph.D. Cell of the University within the prescribed time and in the prescribed manner.

The detailed records of all evaluation components, including assessment sheets, rubrics, assignments, seminars, presentations, practical/research work, portfolios and other relevant records, as applicable, shall be maintained by the Research Centre and shall be made available to the University or any competent authority whenever required for verification, audit, inspection or academic purposes.