

REPORT ON THE VALUE-ADDED COURSE ON

Research Methodology

Conducted between 01-06 May 2023



ORGANISED BY

The Incubation Centre, St. Edmund's College, Shillong

In collaboration with

**The Department of History and the Internal Quality Assurance Cell
(IQAC), St. Edmund's College, Shillong**

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This course was conducted very near to the commencement of the end-semester exams and, yet, the Department of History's endorsement of the Incubation Centre's efforts is appreciated. I am thankful for the encouragement by **Darilin Suting**, Head, Department of History, St. Edmund's College, Shillong. **Dr. Dianghunmon Rynjah**, Assistant Professor, Department of History, coordinated her department's activities competently; she was always ready to lend a helping hand.

Dr. Shelley Christine Lamare, Assistant Professor, Department of History, St Anthony's College, Shillong, delivered a concise and detailed presentation on 'Archival Work'. Her presentation covered the module on *Publishing the Right Way*. Further, based on her academic experience, she also discussed the skills lacking within Indian undergraduate students of history. This segment of her presentation was well-received by the students.

Dr. (Capt). K. P. Pallavi Malhan, Vice Principal (Academics), **Dr. Samrat Adhikari**, Head, Department of Biotechnology, **Br. (Dr.) Simon Coelho**, Principal-in-charge, St. Edmund's College, Shillong, **Prof. Sumit Deb**, Coordinator, Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) and **Ms. Priya Paul**, Technical Assistant, were steadfast in their support for this course.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- a. **Title of the Course:** Research Methodology
- b. **Total Contact Hours:** 24
- c. **Date of Approval:** 17 April 2023
- d. **Opening of registration process:** 10 April 2023
- e. **Closing of Registration Process:** 29 April 2023
- f. **Mode of Registration:** Online ([Google Forms](#))
- g. **Date for Commencement of the Course:** 01 May 2023
- h. **Conclusion of the course:** 06 May 2023
- i. **Duration:** 36 hours; including 12 hours for preparations and assessments
- j. **Total No of Students Enrolled:** 32
- k. **Registration Fee:** None
- l. **Course Code on Linways' Learning Management System:** VAC 06
- m. **Course Coordinator:** Dr. Oliver Nelson Gonsalves, Research Facilitator, St. Edmund's College, Shillong
- n. **External Speakers Involved:**

Dr. Shelley Christine Lamare, Assistant Professor, Department of History, St Anthony's College, Shillong

COURSE STRUCTURE

The subsequent sub-section will highlight various aspects of the course, such as Course Description, the Programme, the Mode of the conduct of this course the grading policy and the profile of the external subject-matter expert.

3.1 Course Description:

This five-module Value-Added Course is designed to familiarise students with elementary research etiquettes and enlighten them on acceptable and ethical practices in the field of research. To improve familiarity with the course content, the Course Coordinator referred to the recommended list of readings (specifically articles) based on the North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU) syllabus.

3.2 Programme of the Course:

This course was divided into five modules. The modules were shared between the Research Facilitator and external subject-matter expert, with the focus on gradually introducing the participants to the idea of the research and the significance of publications. The programme of the course is listed in the table below:

Date	Time	Module	Resource Person
Monday, 01 May 2023	2:00-6:00	Introduction to research	Dr. Oliver N. Gonsalves , Research Facilitator, Incubation Centre
Tuesday, 02 May 2023	2:00-6:00	Publishing the Right Way	Dr. Shelley Christine Lamare , Assistant Professor, Department of History, St Anthony's College, Shillong
Wednesday, 03 May 2023	2:00-6:00	Research Methods	Dr. Oliver N. Gonsalves , Research Facilitator, Incubation Centre
Thursday, 04-05 May 2023	2:00-6:00	What is Plagiarism?	Dr. Oliver N. Gonsalves , Research Facilitator, Incubation Centre
Saturday, 06 May 2023	2:00-6:00	Grasping the craft of scientific communication	Dr. Oliver N. Gonsalves , Research Facilitator, Incubation Centre

Apart from the five modules, twelve hours were allotted for the assessment of the students' assignments and their feedback on the conduct and *content* of the course. **All assignments received feedback** via personal e-mails from the Research Facilitator.

3.3 Mode of conduct of the Course:

An offline (physical) mode was followed for this course. The five modules were held in Room Number 36, in the Main Block of St. Edmund's College, Shillong.

3.4 Reference Materials:

The PowerPoint presentations from each module were shared with the students on Linways Learning Management System (LMS), after the conclusion of the day's proceedings. Moreover, additional readings which were relevant to Paper IV (Historiography) were discussed with the students during the first-four modules.

Slides discussing the ideal method to review a book were also circulated with the students.

3.5 Grading Policy:

Students were assigned the following grades, based on the complete course assessments.

Marks	Final Grade
90-100	A+
80-90	A
70-80	B+
60-70	B
50-60	C+
40-50	C
Below 40	Needs improvement

3.6 Profile of the External Subject-Matter Expert

One out of the five modules were managed by an external subject-matter expert. This expert was an acquaintance of the Research Facilitator, who felt that the experience that this expert had gained in her own field of expertise would bridge any gap in the subject-specific content of the course. The external subject-matter expert was invited to deliver a 30-minute offline PowerPoint presentation followed by a discussion.

The profile of the subject-matter expert is shown below:

Dr. Shelley Christine Lamare, Assistant Professor, Department of History, St Anthony's College, Shillong



Dr. Lamare has a Ph.D. in Medieval Indian History from the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. She joined the Department of History, St. Anthony's College, Shillong, in 2021. Prior to joining St. Anthony's College, she worked as a Research Associate for two years for a project entitled "Deccan in Transition: Politics and Interdependency-European Powers in Relation to the Marathas". Among several other publications, she has co-authored a paper on "Medieval Deccan: Reflections Through the Lives of Madame Martin and Madame Dupleix" in the *Indian Historical Review* (2022).

LIST OF REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS

Serial No.	Enrollment No.	Name	Department	Semester
1	21/HIST/189	Nukutulu Rhakho	History	IV
2	21/HIST/209	Dipti Likmabam	History	IV
3	21/HIST/216	Lamchoihoi Haokip	History	IV
4	21/HIST/239	Faithfully Dkhar	History	IV
5	21/HIST/181	Vijingla Sangtam	History	IV
6	21/HIST/182	Lunthula Lims	History	IV
7	21/HIST/183	T Limatola Longchar	History	IV
8	21/HIST/184	Agnes Lalremsangi	History	IV
9	21/HIST/188	Isaac W Kongri	History	IV
10	21/HIST/192	Cabrinia Debrina Kharnaioir	History	IV
11	21/HIST/193	Loretta Laloo	History	IV
12	21/HIST/196	Subhadeep Saha	History	IV
13	21/HIST/197	Pretty Yaikhom	History	IV
14	21/HIST/201	Merenkala	History	IV
15	21/HIST/202	Darshana Das	History	IV
16	21/HIST/204	Pryanjala Pradhan	History	IV
17	21/HIST/205	Nicholas H Rymbui	History	IV
18	21/HIST/206	Nikkita Momin	History	IV
19	21/HIST/208	Haobijam Priyaroshni Devi	History	IV
20	21/HIST/211	Riiaki Mukhim	History	IV
21	21/HIST/215	Liangtong Marak Hungyo	History	IV
22	21/HIST/219	Bipasha Paul	History	IV
23	21/HIST/221	Namdiwangliu Newmai	History	IV
24	21/HIST/224	Wairokpam Monalisa	History	IV
25	21/HIST/227	Anuj Pradhan	History	IV
26	21/HIST/228	Sahil Akhtar	History	IV
27	21/HIST/231	Rohit Ghosh	History	IV
28	21/HIST/232	Sharmistha Sarma	History	IV
29	21/HIST/234	Urzit Saikia	History	IV
30	21/HIST/235	Preety Kumari Rai	History	IV
31	21/HIST/237	Ganesh Kumar Giri	History	IV
32	21/HIST/238	Ibahun Syiem Sutnga	History	IV

ATTENDANCE

Sr. No.	Enrollment No.	Name	Semester	Attendance (%)
1	21/HIST/189	Nukutulu Rhakho	IV	100
2	21/HIST/209	Dipti Likmabam	IV	20
3	21/HIST/216	Lamchoihoi Haokip	IV	20
4	21/HIST/239	Faithfully Dkhar	IV	40
5	21/HIST/181	Vijingla Sangtam	IV	100
6	21/HIST/182	Lunthula Lims	IV	100
7	21/HIST/183	T Limatola Longchar	IV	100
8	21/HIST/184	Agnes Lalremsangi	IV	--
9	21/HIST/188	Isaac W Kongri	IV	100
10	21/HIST/192	Cabrinia Debrina Kharnaioir	IV	100
11	21/HIST/193	Loretta Laloo	IV	--
12	21/HIST/196	Subhadeep Saha	IV	100
13	21/HIST/197	Pretty Yaikhom	IV	60
14	21/HIST/201	Merenkala	IV	100
15	21/HIST/202	Darshana Das	IV	60
16	21/HIST/204	Pryanjala Pradhan	IV	100
17	21/HIST/205	Nicholas H Rymbui	IV	--
18	21/HIST/206	Nikkita Momin	IV	60
19	21/HIST/208	Haobijam Priyaroshni Devi	IV	60
20	21/HIST/211	Riiki Mukhim	IV	100
21	21/HIST/215	Liangtong Marak Hungyo	IV	100
22	21/HIST/219	Bipasha Paul	IV	100
23	21/HIST/221	Namdiwangliu Newmai	IV	60
24	21/HIST/224	Wairokpam Monalisa	IV	60
25	21/HIST/227	Anuj Pradhan	IV	100
26	21/HIST/228	Sahil Akhtar	IV	100
27	21/HIST/231	Rohit Ghosh	IV	100
28	21/HIST/232	Sharmistha Sarma	IV	100
29	21/HIST/234	Urzit Saikia	IV	100
30	21/HIST/235	Preety Kumari Rai	IV	100
31	21/HIST/237	Ganesh Kumar Giri	IV	100
32	21/HIST/238	Ibahun Syiem Sutnga	IV	60

ASSIGNMENTS AND RESULTS

During the modules, the Course Coordinator referred to the recommended list of readings (specifically articles) based on the North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU) syllabus. For instance, the Research Facilitator referred to the readings from Paper IV (Historiography). This would develop some familiarity with the content of the modules. Based on the modules taught during the course, two assignments were given to the students.

6.1 Methodology of evaluation:

The assignments carried ten marks each. Marks from the assignment were used to obtain a final percentage score.

Thus, if a student scored 7/10, then the final percentage was calculated as 70 (7/10 x100).

Only students who had scored a minimum of 40% and above are eligible for certificates (refer to Appendix C).

6.2 Composition of the assignment:

Students were expected to upload their submission on to the LMS (Linways). These assignments were designed to test rudimentary (online) research skills. They followed a similar pattern as those given for VAC 03 (*Research Methodology*) and VAC 05 (*Academic Writing and Understanding the Ecosystem of Research*) which were conducted in March and April 2023 respectively.

Students were given two weeks to submit (upload) their assignments, which the Research Facilitator then evaluated.

6.3 Results:

The details of the marks scored and the final percentage attained is listed in the table below:

Sr. No.	Enrollment No.	Name	A I	A II	% of Marks	Grade
			10	10		
1	21/HIST/189	Nikutulu Rhakho	10	7.5	87.5	A
2	21/HIST/209	Dipti Likmabam	--	--	--	--
3	21/HIST/216	Lamchoihoi Haokip	--	--	--	--
4	21/HIST/239	Faithfully Dkhar	--	--	--	--
5	21/HIST/181	Vijingla Sangtam	10	9.5	97.5	A+
6	21/HIST/182	Lunthula Lims	9.5	10	97.5	A+
7	21/HIST/183	T Limatola Longchar	7.5	8	77.5	B+
8	21/HIST/184	Agnes Lalremsangi	--	--	--	--
9	21/HIST/188	Isaac W Kongri	--	--	--	--

10	21/HIST/192	Cabrinia Debrina Kharnaior	8	9	85	A
11	21/HIST/193	Loretta Laloo	--	--	--	--
12	21/HIST/196	Subhadeep Saha	--	--	--	--
13	21/HIST/197	Pretty Yaikhom	10	10	100	A+
14	21/HIST/201	Merenkala	9.5	7	82.5	A
15	21/HIST/202	Darshana Das	--	--	--	--
16	21/HIST/204	Pryanjala Pradhan	--	--	--	--
17	21/HIST/205	Nicholas H Rymbui	--	--	--	--
18	21/HIST/206	Nikkita Momin	--	--	--	--
19	21/HIST/208	Haobijam Priyaroshni Devi	--	--	--	--
20	21/HIST/211	Riiaki Mukhim	9.5	10	97.5	A+
21	21/HIST/215	Liangtong Marak Hungyo	9.5	10	97.5	A+
22	21/HIST/219	Bipasha Paul	8	9	85	A
23	21/HIST/221	Namdiwangliu Newmai	9.5	8.5	90	A+
24	21/HIST/224	Wairokpam Monalisa	10	9	95	A+
25	21/HIST/227	Anuj Pradhan	--	--	--	--
26	21/HIST/228	Sahil Akhtar	--	--	--	--
27	21/HIST/231	Rohit Ghosh	--	--	--	--
28	21/HIST/232	Sharmistha Sarma	9.5	10	97.5	A+
29	21/HIST/234	Urzit Saikia	--	--	--	--
30	21/HIST/235	Preety Kumari Rai	--	--	--	--
31	21/HIST/237	Ganesh Kumar Giri	--	--	--	--
32	21/HIST/238	Ibahun Syiem Sutnga	--	--	--	--

Out of the 32 students who registered for the course, only 13 passed this course. Thus, **this course had a passing percentage of 40.62%**. Nineteen students did not submit any assignments (listed in the table above as AI and AII). **Figure 2** below is a graphical display of the percentage scores of the 13 students who passed this course.

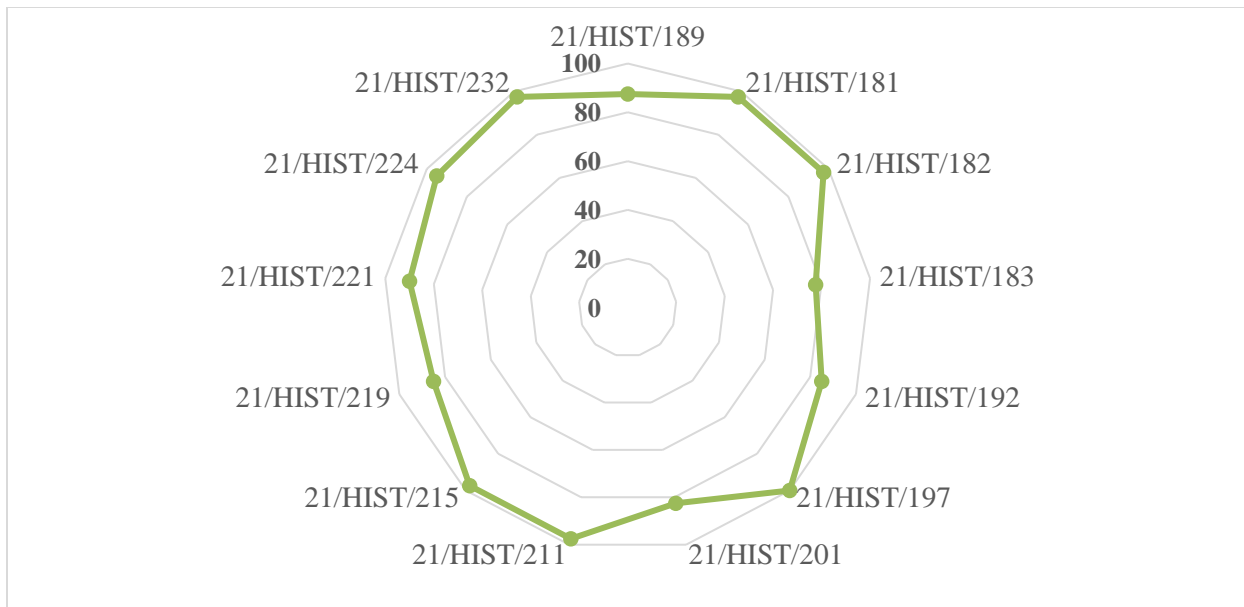


Figure 2: Percentage score of successful students

Note: This data was plotted using MS Excel.

Based on the assessment of the assignment, appropriate grades were awarded to the student. While the scores (marks) for the assignments were awarded on Linways Learning Management System, the grades were only included in the certificates.

6.4 Analysis:

Based on students' assignments and classroom interactions, this report has noted the following:

- a. Students are unable to contextualise and paraphrase arguments. For instance, during a classroom discussion on E.H. Carr's *What is History?* students would quote Carr's arguments verbatim. Stress on the understanding of readings (from the recommended reading list), instead of textbooks, could improve the students' understanding of the course content which could, in turn, reflect well in their exams.
- b. A few assignments indicated an interest in learning how to add references, particularly referencing styles. This shows that students were receptive to advanced academic practices even though these were not covered
- c. A widespread failure to distinguish journals from books was observed. Emphasis on studying from the recommended list of readings (specifically articles) based on the North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU) syllabus.

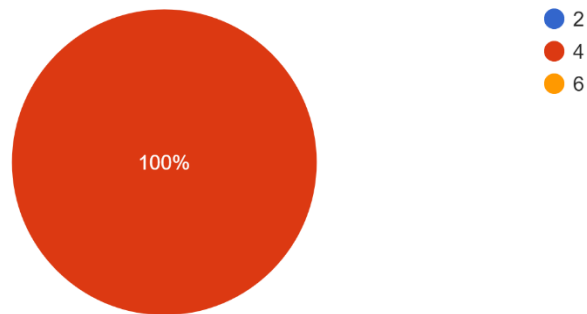
FEEDBACK FROM STUDENTS

A Google Form was designed to assess feedback from the students. The link (URL) of this form is:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeEW-xWMy7-eIOrZiGLvUJwgFvw7sxfirGDnQEURttOK6Atbw/viewform?usp=sf_link

Out of the 32 students who registered for this course, only six students responded to the Research Facilitator's request for feedback. Their responses are depicted below.

Semester
6 responses

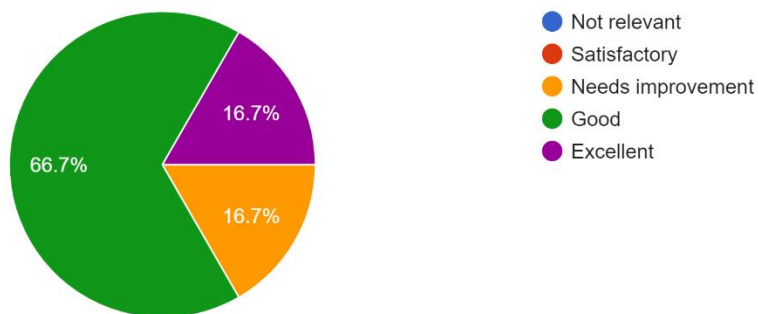


Were the objectives of the course clear to you?
6 responses



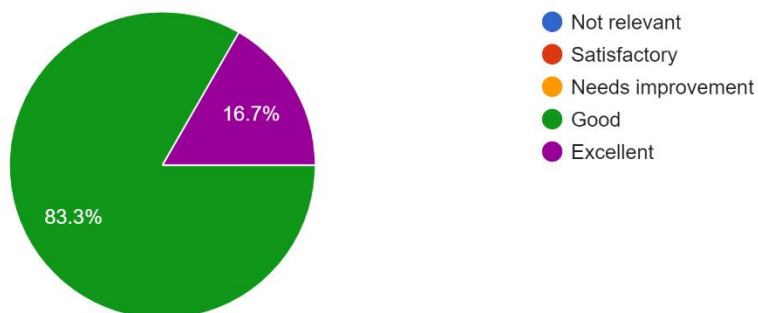
How relevant was the content of the course?

6 responses



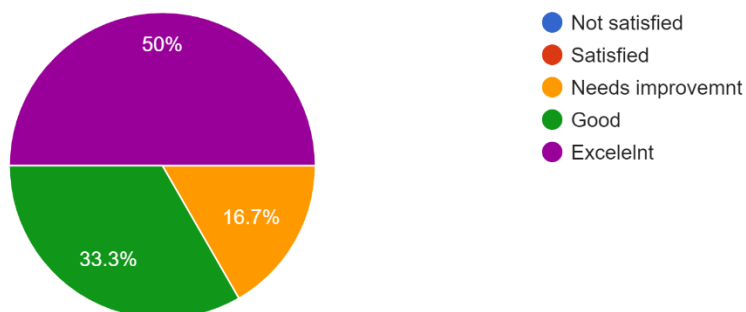
How was the structure (organisation/planning) of the course?

6 responses



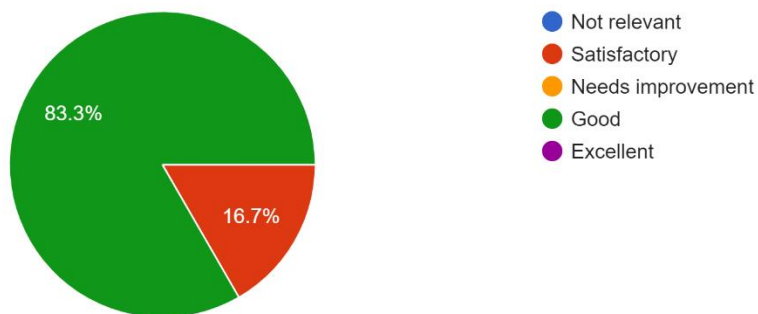
The Research Facilitator taught you using templates of articles and screenshots of journals (along with their content). He also did not circulate class ... How satisfied were you with this kind of teaching?

6 responses



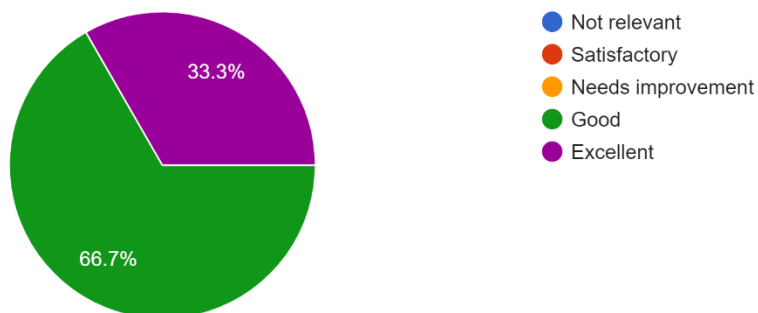
Did you find the visit to the library and the subsequent briefings on citation useful?

6 responses



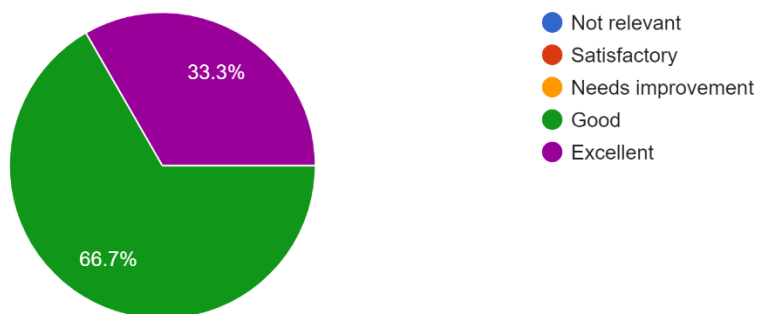
Did the content of the course enhance your understanding of 'research' in your subject?

6 responses



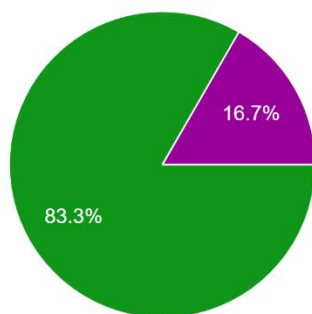
Did the course content familiarise you how to look for information pertaining to additional readings/articles for your subject (History)?

6 responses



How relevant did you find the assignments?

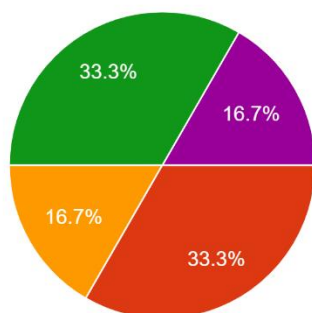
6 responses



- Not relevant
- Satisfactory
- Needs improvement
- Good
- Excellent

Were the sessions interactive enough?

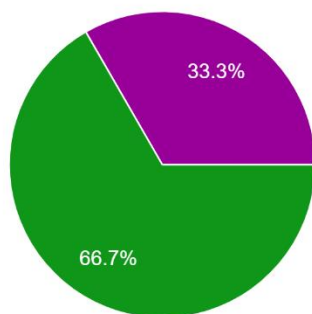
6 responses



- Not relevant
- Satisfactory
- Needs improvement
- Good
- Excellent

How would you describe this course to your friends?

6 responses



- Not relevant
- Satisfactory
- Needs improvement
- Good
- Excellent

Do you have any **SUGGESTIONS** for the Research Facilitator on how to improve this course?

- a. Making the PPT more visually appealing; quizzes like 'kahoot' in the class. Class will be more interactive
- b. In my opinion its fine but 2 hours I find its too long for me, but overall everything was superb.
- c. Everything was good.
- d. No, just a humble thank you for your valuable time and knowledge.
- e. Making the course compulsory for every student, it is really useful.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

There were no financial implications on the college.

APPENDICES

The following materials were used as supplementary material to enhance the merit of this course:

9.1 Appendix A (Brochure)



Value-Added Course on Research Methodology
Organised by the Incubation Centre,
in collaboration with the Department of History, St. Edmund's College, Shillong

Introduction
As higher education in India gradually moves towards a more holistic and interdisciplinary model, research – especially at the undergraduate level – has become the focus of capability-enhancement activities within Indian universities. It is being promoted to enhance the skill sets of Indian graduates and prepare them for opportunities in higher education and industry. Such an initiative requires not only familiarity with contemporary research practices but also an understanding of the “ecosystem of research” (National Education Policy 2020, 45).

Target Participants
The course is only open for the 4th semester (Honours) students of the Department of History, St. Edmund's College, Shillong

Course Content

Content	Hours
Module I: Introduction to research	4
Module II: Publishing the Right Way*	4
Module III: Research Methods	4
Module IV: What is Plagiarism?	8
Module V: Grasping the craft of scientific communication	4

*This module will be conducted by the external resource-person (Dr. Shelley Christine Lamare)

Objectives
This five-module Value-Added Course is designed to familiarise students with elementary research etiquettes and enlighten them on acceptable and ethical practices in the field of research.

Course Fees
No Course Fee

Presenter(s)
 Oliver Nelson Gonsalves, PhD, Research Facilitator, St. Edmund's College, Shillong
 Dr. Shelley Christine Lamare, Assistant Professor, Department of History, St. Anthony's College, Shillong, Meghalaya, India

Assessments**
Each module will have short assignments based on the practical knowledge disseminated during the class. The results shall be graded accordingly with an analysis of the feedback. Assignments and feedback will be circulated using Linways.

Mode
This course will be conducted OFFLINE

****Participants who have completed ALL modules of the 36-hour course (including assignments) will be provided with certificates**

*****Kindly note that all correspondence will be through e-mail only**

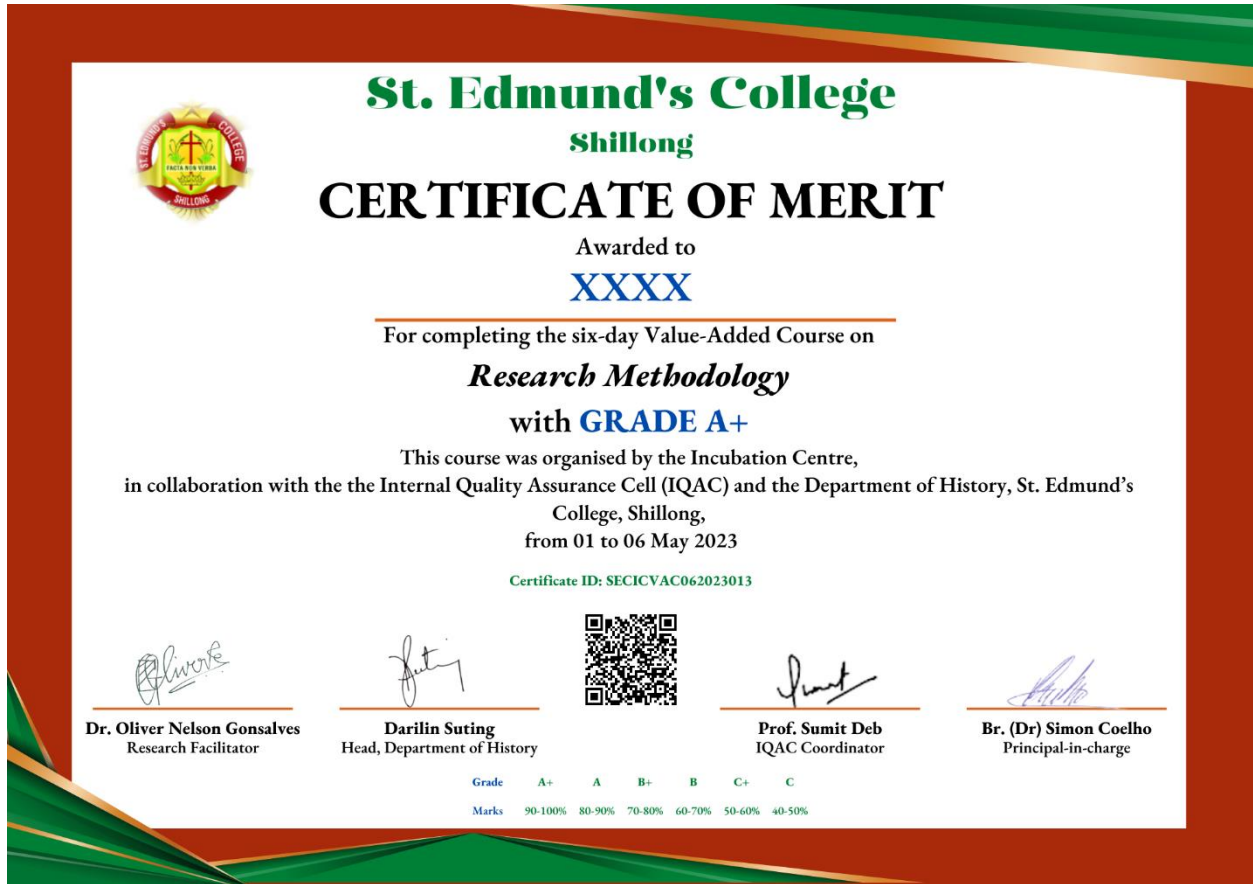
How to Apply
REGISTER HERE

For queries, please contact***
Oliver N Gonsalves, PhD
Research Facilitator
Incubation Centre
St. Edmund's College, Shillong
Email id:
secincubationcentre@gmail.com

Important Dates

Registration Opens	10 Apr 2023
Registration Closes	29 Apr 2023
Commencement of the Course	01 May 2023
Timings	2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Module I	01 May 2023
Module II	02 May 2023
Module III	03 May 2023
Module IV	04-05 May 2023
Module V	06 May 2023

9.2 Appendix B (Template of the Certificate)



9.3 Appendix C (Geo-tagged photographs of the sessions taken during the course)

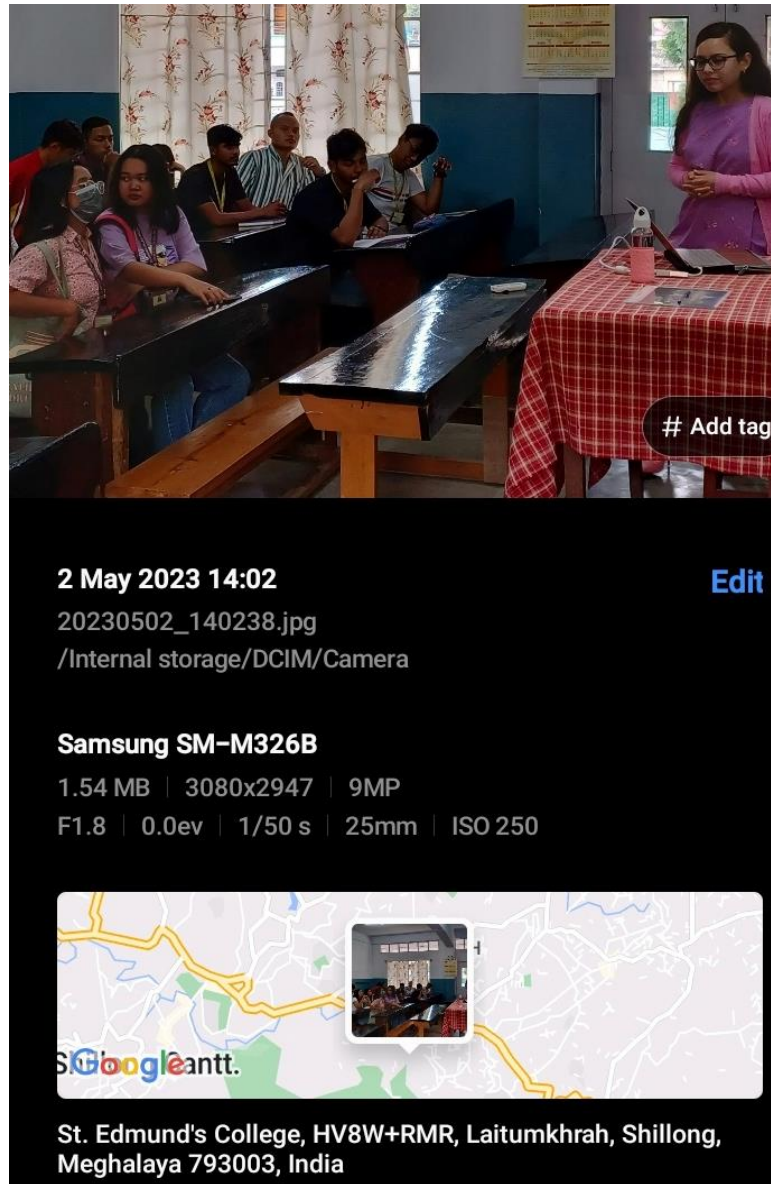


Image 1: Dr. Shelley Christine Lamare, Assistant Professor, Department of History, St Anthony's College, Shillong, teaching the module on Publishing the Right Way (02 May 2023.)

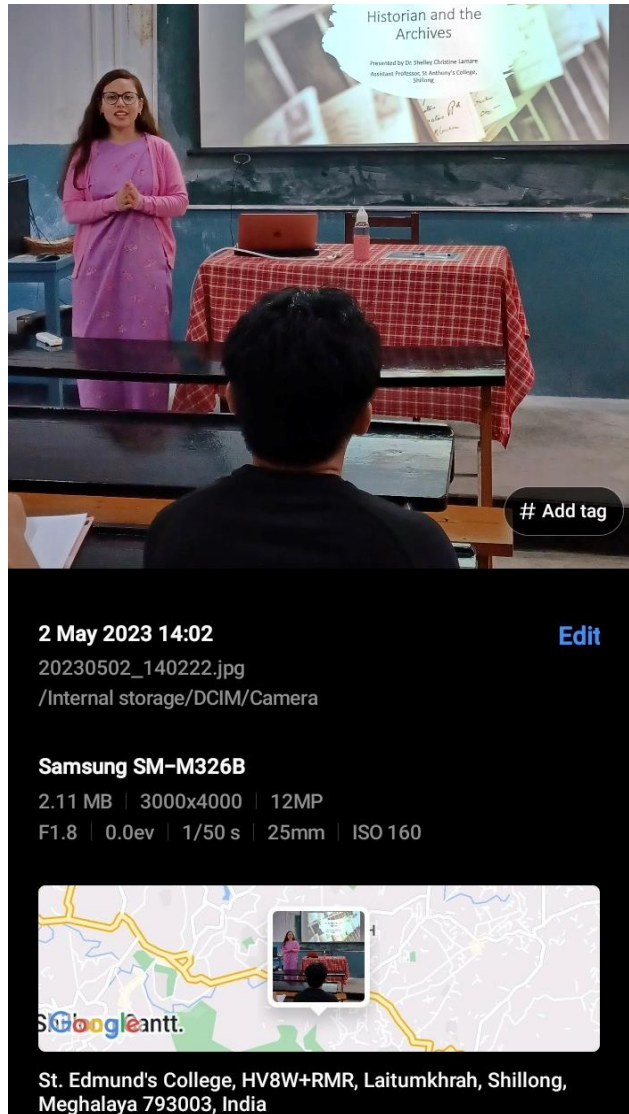


Image 2: Dr. Shelley Christine Lamare, Assistant Professor, Department of History, St. Anthony's College, Shillong, discussing the significance of archival work (02 May 2023.)

Research Facilitator
St. Edmund's College
Shillong - 793003