

**City University of Hong Kong
Course Syllabus**

**offered by Department of Physics
with effect from Semester A 2025/26**

Part I Course Overview

Course Title: **Advanced Research in Physics**

Course Code: **PHY6528**

Course Duration: **Two semesters**

Credit Units: **9**

Level: **P6**

Medium of Instruction: **English**

Medium of Assessment: **English**

Prerequisites:
(Course Code and Title) **Nil**

Precursors:
(Course Code and Title) **Nil**

Equivalent Courses:
(Course Code and Title) **Nil**

Exclusive Courses:
(Course Code and Title) **Nil**

Part II Course Details

1. Abstract

(A 150-word description about the course)

This advanced research course is designed for students to acquire necessary skills for carrying out independent research in applied physics in the specialized field of biomedical physics or energy materials physics. Students will have the opportunity to work under the direct supervision of faculties in the specialized fields on problems which are highly relevant to the current biomedical profession or energy industry.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

(CILOs state what the student is expected to be able to do at the end of the course according to a given standard of performance.)

No.	CILOs	Weighting* (if applicable)	Discovery-enriched curriculum related learning outcomes (please tick where appropriate)		
			A1	A2	A3
1.	Carry out a literature survey or search of a selected subject, plan the entire project and integrate the physical principles into the project selected.		√		
2.	Carry out independent theoretical or experimental work, analyze and interpret data professionally.		√	√	√
3.	Demonstrate initiative, innovative abilities, and critical thinking. Be able to write a good scientific report		√	√	√
		100%			

* If weighting is assigned to CILOs, they should add up to 100%.

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to self-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

3. Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

(LTAs designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs.)

LTA	Brief Description	CILO No.			Hours/week (if applicable)
		1	2	3	
Consultation	Research meeting	√	√	√	1
Laboratory	Experiments, computer simulations, etc		√	√	5.5
Outside lab activity	Literature review, data and theoretical analysis	√	√	√	2.5

4. Assessment Tasks/Activities (ATs)

(ATs are designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs.)

Assessment Tasks/Activities	CILO No.			Weighting*	Remarks
	1	2	3		
Continuous Assessment: 100%					
Project report	√	√	√	60	
Oral presentation	√	√	√	20	
Oral examination	√	√	√	20	
* The weightings should add up to 100%.				100%	

The advanced research project should be carried out on an individual basis. The topics will be provided by the programme. In some cases, a topic can be selected from a specialized technical problem in the company in which the student is working, provided it is approved by the project committee to be of sufficient merit. The progress of the project will be closely monitored through regular meetings between the supervisor and the student.

The oral presentation is assessed by a team of assessors, appointed by the project committee, according to style, structure and clarity, and response to questions. The assessment procedures are arranged to incorporate a uniformity of treatment across the student cohort.

Each research report is assessed by the assessor appointed by the project committee to each particular dissertation. The report is assessed as to presentation (clarity, conciseness), technical knowledge and understanding, and accomplishment (technical competence, initiative creativity, effort).

The oral examination is used to validate the extent of the student's understanding of the dissertation and the degree of self-guidance achieved.

5. Assessment Rubrics

(Grading of student achievements is based on student performance in assessment tasks/activities with the following rubrics.)

Applicable to students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter:

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B, B-)	Fair (C+, C, C-)	Marginal (D)	Failure (F)
1. Report	ABILITY to write a comprehensive research report	High (excellent accomplishment with creativity, designed structure, presentation of data and figures, and reasonable conclusions)	Significant (good accomplishment with creativity, designed structure, presentation of data and figures, and reasonable conclusions)	Moderate (fair accomplishment with creativity, designed structure, presentation of data and figures, and reasonable conclusions)	Basic (essential accomplishment with creativity, designed structure, presentation of data and figures, and reasonable conclusions)	Not even reaching marginal levels
2. Oral presentation	ABILITY to communicate orally the technical details of the research project to an audience with general scientific background	High (excellent accomplishment of the presentation with style/structure of the presentation, clarity of the presentation, and time-keeping.)	Significant (good accomplishment of the presentation with style/structure of the presentation, clarity of the presentation, and time-keeping.)	Moderate (fair accomplishment of the presentation with style/structure of the presentation, clarity of the presentation, and time-keeping.)	Basic (essential accomplishment of the presentation with style/structure of the presentation, clarity of the presentation, and time-keeping.)	Not even reaching marginal levels
3. Oral examination	ABILITY to EXPLAIN and respond to questions in DETAIL orally	High (excellent accomplishment of the oral examination with response to questions)	Significant (good accomplishment of the oral examination with response to questions)	Moderate (fair accomplishment of the oral examination with response to questions)	Basic (essential accomplishment of the oral examination with response to questions)	Not even reaching marginal levels

Applicable to students admitted in Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B)	Marginal (B-, C+, C)	Failure (F)
1. Report	ABILITY to write a comprehensive research report	High (excellent accomplishment with creativity, designed structure, presentation of data and figures, and reasonable conclusions)	Significant (good accomplishment with creativity, designed structure, presentation of data and figures, and reasonable conclusions)	Moderate (fair accomplishment with creativity, designed structure, presentation of data and figures, and reasonable conclusions)	Not even reaching marginal levels
2. Oral presentation	ABILITY to communicate orally the technical details of the research project to an audience with general scientific background	High (excellent accomplishment of the presentation with style/structure of the presentation, clarity of the presentation, and time-keeping.)	Significant (good accomplishment of the presentation with style/structure of the presentation, clarity of the presentation, and time-keeping.)	Moderate (fair accomplishment of the presentation with style/structure of the presentation, clarity of the presentation, and time-keeping.)	Not even reaching marginal levels
3. Oral examination	ABILITY to EXPLAIN and respond to questions in DETAIL orally	High (excellent accomplishment of the oral examination with response to questions)	Significant (good accomplishment of the oral examination with response to questions)	Moderate (fair accomplishment of the oral examination with response to questions)	Not even reaching marginal levels

Part III Other Information (more details can be provided separately in the teaching plan)

1. Keyword Syllabus

(An indication of the key topics of the course.)

N/A

2. Reading List

2.1 Compulsory Readings

(Compulsory readings can include books, book chapters, or journal/magazine articles. There are also collections of e-books, e-journals available from the CityU Library.)

N/A

2.2 Additional Readings

(Additional references for students to learn to expand their knowledge about the subject.)

Assigned by the supervisor.