

CA5203: RESEARCH METHODS AND THESIS DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR IN ARCHITECTURE

Effective Term

Semester B 2024/25

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Research Methods and Thesis Development Seminar in Architecture

Subject Code

CA - Civil and Architectural Engineering

Course Number

5203

Academic Unit

Architecture and Civil Engineering (CA)

College/School

College of Engineering (EG)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

P5, P6 - Postgraduate Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course aims to prepare students for their thesis project formulation in Architecture Thesis Studio. Through a variety of research activities, students will be introduced to the aspects and process of research, and finally explore the development of research interest into a research plan.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	understand aspects and process of research		x	
2	review literature in architecture theory and design		x	
3	identify research trends of topics related to Architecture and Urbanism	x	x	
4	explore the development of research interest into a research plan and architecture thesis proposal	x	x	x

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 real-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.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs	Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Lectures	Introduction of the research process, research method, and techniques to formulate a research question, conduct a literature review, design data collection, and analysis, establish linkages of design and research	1, 2, 3, 4
2	Tutorials	In class discussion	1, 2, 3, 4

Additional Information for LTAs

Semester Hours: 3 hours per week

Lecture/Tutorial/Laboratory Mix: Lecture (Mix); Tutorial (Mix); Laboratory (-)

Mixed lecture and tutorial sessions

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks (e.g. Parameter for GenAI use)
1	Assignments	1, 2, 3, 4	100

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

Assignments (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Quality of assignment to reflect student' s understanding of the aspects and process of the research, comprehension of the literature reviewed for selected topics in architectural theory and design, ability in identifying the research trend related to Architecture and Urbanism, and depth of exploration of the development of selected research interest into a research plan and architecture thesis proposal

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) High

Good

(B+, B, B-) Significant

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Moderate

Marginal

(D) Basic

Failure

(F) Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

Assignments (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Quality of assignment to reflect student' s understanding of the aspects and process of the research, comprehension of the literature reviewed for selected topics in architectural theory and design, ability in identifying the research trend related to Architecture and Urbanism, and depth of exploration of the development of selected research interest into a research plan and architecture thesis proposal.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) High

Good

(B+, B) Significant

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Basic

Failure

(F) Not even reaching marginal levels

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Research and design; seminar on the research process, research method, and techniques to formulate a research question, conduct a literature review, design data collection and analysis; Architecture and Urbanism.

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Nil

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Yin. R. K. (1994) Case Study Research: Design and Methods, Sage Publication.
2	John Zeisel and John P. Eberhard (2006) Inquiry by Design: Environment/Behavior/Neuroscience in Architecture, Interiors, Landscape, and Planning. W. W. Norton.
3	David Wang, Linda Groat (2018) Architectural Research Methods, Second Edition. Wiley India.
4	Ajla Aksamija (2021) Research Methods for the Architectural Profession. Routledge.
5	Charles Jencks (2006) Theories and Manifestoes of Contemporary Architecture, Second Edition. Academy Press.