

**City University of Hong Kong
Course Syllabus**

**offered by Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering
with effect from Semester A 2022/23**

Part I Course Overview

Course Title:	Professional Research Methods
Course Code:	CA5603
Course Duration:	1 Semester (Some courses offered in Summer Term may start a few weeks earlier than the normal University schedule. Please check the teaching schedules with CLs before registering for the courses.)
Credit Units:	3
Level:	P5
Medium of Instruction:	English
Medium of Assessment:	English
Prerequisites: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	Nil
Precursors: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	Nil
Equivalent Courses: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	BC5603 Professional Research Methods
Exclusive Courses: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	Nil

Part II Course Details

1. Abstract

To inspire the students a thorough understanding of the basic philosophy and requirements of research works in terms of concepts, methodology, logic thinking and importance of presentation.

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.	equip the technique for handling the dissertation with confidence;		✓	✓	
2.	identify and reflect the basic foundation of scientific research;			✓	
3.	conduct the research work rigorously and accurately;			✓	
4.	actually implement the knowledge and produce a small piece of research work without detailed supervision.			✓	✓
		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. Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)

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

TLA	Brief Description	CILO No.				Hours / week (if applicable)
		1	2	3	4	
Lectures	On the topics related to research methodologies	✓	✓	✓		
Workshops	In class workshops to teach student learn tools for their dissertation	✓	✓	✓		
Project	Sample research work for student to implement the knowledge	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Semester Hours:	3 hours per week
Lecture/Tutorial/Laboratory Mix:	Lecture (-); Tutorial (-); Laboratory (-)
	3 hrs/wk for the first 3 weeks, workshop and student presentations for the last 2 weeks.

4. Assessment Tasks/Activities

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

Assessment Tasks / Activities	CILO No.				Weighting	Remarks
	1	2	3	4		
Continuous Assessment: 100%						
Coursework	✓	✓	✓	✓	20%	
Discussion in class	✓	✓	✓		20%	
Research Summary	✓	✓	✓	✓	20%	
Term projects	✓	✓	✓	✓	40%	
Examination: 0%						
					100%	

5. Assessment Rubrics

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

Applicable to students admitted in Semester A 2022/23 and thereafter

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B)	Marginal (B-, C+, C)	Failure (F)
Coursework	ABILITY to UNDERSTAND, ANALYZE, and DISCUSS research articles	High	Significant	Basic	Not even reaching marginal levels
Discussion in class	ABILITY to UNDERSTAND, ANALYZE, and RESPONSE to the in-class discussion	High	Significant	Basic	Not even reaching marginal levels
Research Summary	ABILITY to UNDERSTAND, ANALYZE, and DISCUSS research articles on the topics	High	Significant	Basic	Not even reaching marginal levels
Term projects	ABILITY to UNDERSTAND, ANALYZE, and DISCUSS the implement of research methodology in research projects	High	Significant	Basic	Not even reaching marginal levels

Applicable to students admitted before Semester A 2022/23

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B, B-)	Fair (C+, C, C-)	Marginal (D)	Failure (F)
Coursework	ABILITY to UNDERSTAND, ANALYZE, and DISCUSS research articles	High	Significant	Moderate	Basic	Not even reaching marginal level
Discussion in class	ABILITY to UNDERSTAND, ANALYZE, and RESPONSE to the in-class discussion	High	Significant	Moderate	Basic	Not even reaching marginal levels
Research Summary	ABILITY to UNDERSTAND, ANALYZE, and DISCUSS research articles on the topics	High	Significant	Moderate	Basic	Not even reaching marginal levels
Term projects	ABILITY to UNDERSTAND, ANALYZE, and DISCUSS the implement of research methodology in research projects	High	Significant	Moderate	Basic	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.)

Philosophy of research; documentation; word processing; presentation; ethics of research; research support; creativity; research types; measurement.

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.)

1.	Nil
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2.2 Additional Readings

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

1.	Fellows, R., & Liu A. (eds), 2008, Research Methods for Construction. (3rd Edition). Blackwell Science, Oxford, (TH213.5 .F45 2008)
2.	Greenfield, T. (ed.), 2002, Research Methods for Postgraduates, Arnold, London, (Q180.A1 R47 2002)
3.	McBurney, D. H. 2001, Research Methods (5th Edition), Wadsworth Thomson Learning, Belmont, (BF181 .M22 2001)
4.	Kumar, R. 2011, Research Methodology: A Step-by-step Guide for Beginners (3rd Edition), SAGE, Los Angeles, London, (Q180.55.M4 K85 2011)
5.	Kothari, C.R. 2004, Research Methodology: Methods and Techniques (2nd Revised edition), New Age International (P) Ltd., Publishers, New Delhi, (H62 .K68 2004eb)
6.	San Filippo, R.D. 1991, Scientific vs Pseudoscientific Methods, [online]. Available at: [Accessed 11 March 2010].