

Form 2B

City University of Hong Kong

Information on a Course

offered by Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering
with effect from Semester A in 2014/2015

Part I

Course Title:	Dissertation
Course Code:	CA6604
Course Duration:	2 Semesters + 1 Summer Term (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:	6
Level:	P6
Medium of Instruction:	English
Prerequisites:	Nil
Precursor:	Nil
Equivalent Courses:	BC6604 Dissertation
Exclusive Courses:	Nil

Part II

Course Aims:

To guide students to develop project theme with useful objectives. To learn relevant research tools in research projects.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs):

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

No.	CILOs	Weighting (if applicable)
1.	analyze problems in depth;	---
2.	apply formal techniques in report writing and oral presentation;	---
3.	propose an innovative and effective solution to a problem, which is better than those derived from conventional approaches;	---
4.	apply research procedures to arrive at findings.	---

Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs):

(Indicative of likely activities and tasks designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs. Final details will be provided to students in their first week of attendance in this course)

Semester Hours: hours per week

Lecture/Tutorial/Laboratory Mix: Lecture (2); Tutorial (2/fortnight); Laboratory (0)

There is a total of 26 contact hours between supervisor and student. This is NOT considered a

CILO No.	TLAs	Total Hours (if applicable)
CILO 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Readings: One paper or two book chapters in every 2 weeks. Analytical study: Applying theories, logical reasoning and exercising inferential proof. Discussion: Hints/suggestions from the supervisor. 	20%
CILO 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thesis: Writing one chapter of the thesis per month. Presentation: 20-minute oral presentation including 5-minute Q/A session. Short reports: Summarizing the findings obtained in two research seminars. Group discussion: Delivering findings to the supervisors and other classmates during a regular meeting. 	30%
CILO 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self-study: Reading international standards and exploring existing practices. Research: Discovery and analysis of information from seminars, Internet, papers and books, creation of new ideas. Feedback evaluation: Feedback from the supervisor and evaluation based on commonly agreed criteria. 	30%
CILO 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Literature review: Summarizing previous research findings to identify problems. Methodology: Specifying the requirements of a new approach. Documentation: Collecting related information for discussion with a supervisor. Analysis: Searching related analytical skills for tackling problems. 	20%

Assessment Tasks/Activities:

(Indicative of likely activities and tasks designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs. Final details will be provided to students in their first week of attendance in this course)

Coursework: 100%

Examination: 0%

CILO No.	Type of assessment tasks/activities	Weighting (if applicable)	Remarks
CILO 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuous assessment in a regular meeting with the supervisor. 	---	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nil
CILO 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oral presentation. Dissertation. 	---	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nil
CILO 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuous assessment in a regular meeting with the supervisor. 	---	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nil

CILO 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuous assessment in a regular meeting with the supervisor. 	---	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nil
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Grading of Student Achievement:

Grading Pattern:

Standard

Refer to Grading of Courses in the Academic Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Degrees.

Part III

Keyword Syllabus:

Each student will be assigned under a supervisor based on the stream and interest of the student and each supervisor supervises not more than five students. The exact theme of dissertation is a result of discussion and compromise between the student and the supervisor. The actual topic of research must be in line with the stream taken by the student and problems related to the daily works of students should first be looked into. Each student should submit a dissertation together with an oral presentation in front of an assessment panel.

In addition to the dissertation and oral presentation, students may be required to attend at least 2 research seminars on research tools recommended by the supervisor. Within each semester, at least one research seminar (normally three in Semester A, three in Semester B and one in Semester Summer) will be organised by the department on research tools covering analytical methods, mathematical models, statistics, stochastic models, optimization and computer simulations etc. Supervisors may also recommend students to attend research seminars organised by other departments within the university when such seminars are relevant and useful to the dissertation project.

Recommended Reading:

- **Texts:**
 1. Nick Moore (2006) How to do research: a practical guide to designing and managing research project, Facet, London.
 - **Online Resources:**
 1. Any website related to the concerned research topic.
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