Course Syllabus

offered by Department of ___ Public and International Affairs _____
with effect from Semester __A___ 20_ 23-24_

Part I   Course Overview

Course Title:	Independent Study
Course Code:	PIA8619
Course Duration:	Two Semesters
Credit Units:	4
Level:	R8
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)*	**POL8619** *Independent Study*
Exclusive Courses: *(Course Code and Title)*	**Nil**

Part II   Course Details

1.   Abstract
(A 150-word description about the course)

 This course is designed to meet the special needs of research degree students for knowledge of direct relevance to their topic of research which is not available through other courses at the university. The course is offered by each supervisor to one's Ph.D. to improve the student's comprehension of one's relevant research area. It also aims to broaden and deepen the students' grasp of knowledge deemed essential in understanding their proposed area of inquiry as identified by the research supervisor and the student. The course is expected to help students develop critical writing and research skills needed for dissertations and publications. The course could also be used to assist the students to develop academic research papers for possible publication.

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.	Critically evaluate and synthesize various theories in the proposed area of research		X		
2.	Develop research questions, an analytical framework, research strategies with respect to the student's research				X
3.	Apply analytic strategies, procedures, and techniques to a selected research topic and produce quality essays to be assessed by the supervisor		X	X	
4	Discover new knowledge or construct new practice in relation to the identified issues in students' respective disciplines to develop academic papers for possible publication				X
If weighting is assigned to CILOs, they should add up to 100%.		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			
Independent Study	Development of a sustained piece of writing that will lead to either a publication or become a significant component of the thesis, reading and writing under the guidance of the supervisor; frequent and regular meetings with the supervisor; learning how to prepare the write-up of research papers; and other learning activities deemed appropriate by the supervisor	X	X	X	X			

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	4				
Continuous Assessment: _100__%								
Written assignment (8000-10000 words)	X	X	X	X			100	
Examination: ____% (duration: , if applicable)								

The weightings should add up to 100%. | 100% |

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

Students have to undertake all the learning activities and produce intended outcomes of both written assignment and participation deemed satisfactory by the supervisor.

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)
1.					
1. Written Assignment or essay (100%)	Students are required to submit an individual written assignment as an outcome component for the course. The written piece should be between 8,000 and 10,000 words. The structure and topic of the piece will be developed through discussions with the supervisor and under their guidance.	Excellent knowledge of the concepts and theories that apply the students' specific PhD research topic; Strong ability to identify key challenges; Excellent research and writing skills to organize and generate new perspectives; Highly innovative ideas and critical attitude in analyzing PhD-related research issues; Providing an advanced basis for either a publication or incorporation as a section of the thesis	Satisfactory performance in applying the knowledge of students' written journal article, in terms of concepts and theories that are evolving in his/her research areas; Fair ability to identify key challenges; Good research and writing with some potential to develop critical, and independent analysis; fairly innovative and new ideas and critical attitude in analyzing PhD relevant research agendas, questions both theoretically and practically; Providing a solid basis for the development of either a publication or	Basic knowledge demonstrated on students' PhD related research disciplines; Superficial analysis of the basic materials; Generally acceptable standard of research and, writing with some limitations; Very little innovative ideas and critical attitude in analysing PhD relevant research agendas, questions both theoretically and practically; Providing a basis for a possible publication or incorporation as a section of the thesis, with revisions	Almost no knowledge of students' PhD related research disciplines; Almost no ability to identify key challenges; Inadequate research and writing; no innovative ideas and critical attitude in analysing PhD relevant research agendas, questions both theoretically and practically. No basis for incorporation of the assignment into the thesis or as a basis for a journal article.

				incorporation as a section of the thesis.		

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)
1.						
1. Written Assignment or essay (100%)	Students are required to submit an individual written assignment as an outcome component for the course. The written piece should be between 8,000 and 10,000 words. The structure and topic of the piece will be developed through discussions with the supervisor and under their guidance. It is expected that students will adhere to good academic writing and	Excellent knowledge of the concepts and theories that apply the students' specific PhD research topic; Strong ability to identify key challenges; Excellent research and writing skills to organize and generate new perspectives; Highly innovative ideas and critical attitude in analyzing PhD-related research issues; Providing an advanced basis for	Satisfactory performance in applying the knowledge of students' written journal article, in terms of concepts and theories that are evolving in his/her research areas; Fair ability to identify key challenges; Good research and writing with some potential to develop critical, and independent analysis; fairly innovative and new ideas and critical attitude in	Basic knowledge demonstrated on students' PhD related research disciplines; Superficial analysis of the basic materials; Generally acceptable standard of research and, writing with some limitations; Very little innovative ideas and critical attitude in analysing PhD relevant research agendas, questions both theoretically and practically; Providing a basis for a possible publication or	Almost no knowledge of students' PhD related research disciplines; Almost no ability to identify key challenges; Inadequate research and writing; no innovative ideas and critical attitude in analysing PhD relevant research agendas, questions both theoretically and practically. No basis for incorporation of the assignment into the thesis or as a basis for a journal article. Mostly appropriate referencing throughout.	Highly unstructured submission with limited utility for development as either a publication or a core component of the thesis. Limited engagement with the key identified disciplines related to the PhD research; Minimal capacity to identify key challenges and issues; Inadequate research and writing; no innovative ideas and critical attitude in analysing PhD relevant research agendas, questions both theoretically and practically. No basis

	research standards with appropriate referencing throughout.	either a publication or incorporation as a section of the thesis. Appropriate referencing throughout.	analyzing PhD relevant research agendas, questions both theoretically and practically; Providing a solid basis for the development of either a publication or incorporation as a section of the thesis. Appropriate referencing throughout.	incorporation as a section of the thesis, with revisions. Appropriate referencing throughout.		for incorporation of the assignment into the thesis or as a basis for a journal article. Unreferenced or inappropriately referenced.

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.)

     analytical framework, literature review, research question, research design and methodology, research findings, critical thinking, independent study, PhD dissertation, ethical requirements, academic publications

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.)

As each student will be writing from their own perspective compulsory readings will be developed in consultation with the supervisor and/or with additional input from the members of the Qualifying Panel.

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

As each student will be writing from their own perspective additional readings will be developed in consultation with the supervisor and/or with additional input from the members of the Qualifying Panel.