Course Syllabus

offered by Department of Social and Behavioural Sciences
with effect from Semester A 2022/23

Part I   Course Overview

Course Title:	Research Methods in Social Sciences
Course Code:	SS5302
Course Duration:	One Semester
Credit Units:	3
Level:	P5
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

This course aims to introduce basic research methods in social sciences, including both qualitative and quantitative approaches, and their application in social science issues. The course will cover research strategies and designs, practical issues in quantitative and qualitative methods, and research ethics and values.

2.   Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

No.	CILOs	Weighting (if applicable)	Discovery-enriched curriculum related learning outcomes (please tick where appropriate)		
			A1	*A2*	*A3*
1.	To demonstrate a thorough understanding of qualitative and quantitative research methods in social sciences and their application in different research settings	40%	√	√	√
2.	To identify the relative strengths and weaknesses of different research methods in social research	10%	√	√	√
3.	To design a correlational study on a social science topic	30%	√	√	√
4.	To comment critically on selected qualitative and quantitative studies	20%	√	√	√
		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)

TLA	Brief Description	CILO No.						Hours/week (if applicable)
		1	2	3	4			
1.Lecture	There will be weekly lectures, with topics prepared and presented by lecturers. The lectures may assign student to read essential and/or supplementary readings concerning the topics.	√	√	√	√			2hr/week
2. Group Discussion	Students are required to participate in group discussion in class on various practical issues in social research.	√	√	√	√			1hr/week

4. Assessment Tasks/Activities (ATs)

Assessment Tasks/Activities	CILO No.						Weighting	Remarks
	1	2	3	4				
Continuous Assessment: 100%								
Fieldwork Notes	√	√					20%	
Research Project	√	√		√			40%	
SPSS Exercise	√	√	√				40%	
							100%	

AT1: Fieldwork Notes
To collect first hand fieldwork data, and make necessary arrangements to make the dataset comprehensible to the instructor and other students. The fieldwork notes (around 1,500 words) should be submitted in the middle of the semester.

AT2: Research Project
To conduct a research project based on the fieldwork data (from AT1).

AT3: SPSS Exercise
Students are required to complete a set of SPSS exercises provided by the instructor.

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)
1. Fieldwork Notes (20%)	1.1 Ability to demonstrate data collection and data arrangement in a systematic way	Strong evidence for the competence to systematically collect data with highly degree of richness.	Good evidence for the competence to systematically collect data with highly degree of richness.	Fair to limited evidence for the competence to systematically collect data with highly degree of richness.	Insufficient evidence for the competence to systematically collect data with highly degree of richness.
2. Research Project (40%)	2.1 Ability to demonstrate learning	Strong evidence for the capability to examine critically and apply innovatively the knowledge and theories learnt, and discuss critically the implications of the application in specific research contexts.	Good evidence for the capability to examine critically and apply innovatively the knowledge and theories learnt, and discuss critically the implications of the application in specific research contexts.	Fair to limited evidence for the capability to examine critically and apply innovatively the knowledge and theories learnt, and discuss critically the implications of the application in specific research contexts.	Insufficient evidence for the capability to examine critically and apply innovatively the knowledge and theories learnt, and discuss critically the implications of the application in specific research contexts.
3.SPSS Exercise (40%)	3.1 Ability to show the acquisition of knowledge accurately	Strong evidence for the ability to apply the knowledge with high accuracy.	Good evidence for the ability to apply the knowledge with high accuracy.	Fair to limited evidence for the ability to apply the knowledge with high accuracy.	Insufficient evidence for the ability to apply the knowledge with high accuracy.

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. Fieldwork Notes (20%)	1.1 Ability to demonstrate data collection and data arrangement in a systematic way	High	Significant	Moderate	Basic	Not even reaching marginal levels
2. Research Project (40%)	2.1 Ability to demonstrate learning	High	Significant	Moderate	Basic	Not even reaching marginal levels
3.SPSS Exercise (40%)	3.1 Ability to show the acquisition of knowledge accurately	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**

Introduction to basic research steps in social sciences, measurement of social science issues, qualitative and quantitative social research, presentation of rigorous research in social sciences.

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.	Creswell, J. W. & Creswell, J. D. 2018. *Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches* (5th ed.)*.* Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage.

2.2   **Additional Readings**

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

1.	Neuman, W. Lawrence. 2013. *Basics of Social Research: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches*. New International Edition. Boston, Mass.; London: Allyn and Bacon.
2.	Babbie, E. 2020. *The Practice of Social Research*. 15th ed. Belmont, CA.; Wadsworth Publishing.