

City University of Hong Kong
Course Syllabus

offered by Department of Social and Behavioural Sciences
with effect from Semester B 2023/24

Part I Course Overview

Course Title:	Dissertation
Course Code:	SS5798B
Course Duration:	Two semesters (dissertation-type)
Credit Units:	6 credits
Level:	P5
Medium of Instruction:	English
Medium of Assessment:	English
Prerequisites: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	12 credits in the program including SS5783 Psychological Research Design and Analysis
Precursors: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	Nil
Equivalent Courses: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	SS5798
Exclusive Courses: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	Nil

Part II Course Details

1. Abstract

The aim of this course is to enable students to demonstrate their ability to develop, plan and execute psychological research. It is designed to foster independent thinking and to encourage academic debate on significant issues and principles of psychological research via individual supervision.

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.	design and carry out psychological research under supervision;	30%	✓	✓	✓
2.	integrate knowledge of psychological theories and research skills into the planning, design and implementation of their research; and	40%	✓	✓	✓
3.	communicate effectively findings of psychological research in a scientific manner.	30%	✓	✓	
		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	
Supervision	Students learn to integrate knowledge in psychological theories and research to formulate their own research questions/hypotheses via individual supervision sessions In addition, students conducting similar research will meet with their supervisor in a group to report progress of their research and discuss issues of common concern.	✓	✓	✓	
Consultation sessions	Consultations on methodological, statistical and other technical issues will be provided by instructors/tutors. These sessions are expected to provide students with the guidance that enable them to process, analyze and interpret findings of their research in the most effective and accurate manner	✓	✓		

Note:

SS5798 and SS5798B are equivalent courses. The courses are designated for students in different modes of study admitted in 2021-22 or before. These courses cannot be repeated. Once started, switching between SS5798 and SS5798B is not allowed regardless of the changes in the mode of study. Only SS5798B will be offered to students admitted in 2022-23 or after.

SS5798B will be offered to qualified students admitted in 2022-23 or after. The qualifications will be announced in the beginning of the academic year. This course will also be offered to students of the full-time study mode admitted in 2021-22 or before without qualification requirements. The normal duration of the course is 2 semesters (Semester B & Summer). The maximum extension duration of the course is 1 semester (Semester A). After which no further extension is permitted. Each semester is charged 3 credits.

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		
Continuous Assessment: ___%					
Research Report (100%)	✓	✓	✓		
Examination: ___0% (duration: _____, if applicable)					
				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 before Semester A 2022/23

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B, B-)	Fair (C+, C, C-)	Marginal (D)	Failure (F)
Research Report	Ability to develop, plan and execute psychological research. Effective communication of the findings.	Strong evidence for the ability to develop, plan and execute psychological research. Strong evidence for effective communication of the findings.	Good evidence for the ability to develop, plan and execute psychological research. Good evidence for effective communication of the findings.	Fair evidence for the ability to develop, plan and execute psychological research. Fair evidence for effective communication of the findings.	Limited evidence for the ability to develop, plan and execute psychological research. Limited evidence for effective communication of the findings.	Insufficient evidence for the ability to develop, plan and execute psychological research. Insufficient evidence for effective communication of the findings.

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)
Research Report	Ability to develop, plan and execute psychological research. Effective communication of the findings.	Strong evidence for the ability to develop, plan and execute psychological research. Strong evidence for effective communication of the findings.	Good evidence for the ability to develop, plan and execute psychological research. Good evidence for effective communication of the findings.	Fair or limited evidence for the ability to develop, plan and execute psychological research. Fair evidence for effective communication of the findings.	Insufficient evidence for the ability to develop, plan and execute psychological research. Insufficient evidence for effective communication of the findings.

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.)

There is no formal syllabus but the procedure will involve:

- Determination of topic areas for research.
- Reading assignment, development and preparation of a research proposal on a topic in line with the research interest of a supervisor.
- Data gathering and analysis.
- Preparation and presentation of the research report.

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.)

NIL

2.2 Additional Readings

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

1.	Christensen, L. B. (2004). Experimental methodology (9th ed.). Boston, MA: Allyn & Bacon.
2.	Cohen, B. H. (2001). Explaining psychological statistics (2nd ed.). New York: John Wiley & Sons.
3.	Rosenthal, R., & Rosnow, R. L. (2008). Essentials of behavioral research: Methods and data analysis (3rd ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill.