

**City University of Hong Kong
Course Syllabus**

**offered by Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering
with effect from Semester A 2024/25**

Part I Course Overview

Course Title:	Research Methods and Thesis Development Seminar in Architecture
Course Code:	CA5203
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>	Nil
Exclusive Courses: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	Nil

Part II Course Details

1. Abstract

This course aims to prepare students for their thesis project formulation in Architecture Thesis Studio. Through a variety of research activities, students will be introduced to the aspects and process of research, and finally explore the development of research interest into a research plan.

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.	understand aspects and process of research			✓	
2.	review literature in architecture theory and design			✓	
3.	identify research trends of topics related to Architecture and Urbanism		✓	✓	
4.	explore the development of research interest into a research plan and architecture thesis proposal		✓	✓	✓
		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 real-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. Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

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

LTA	Brief Description	CILO No.				Hours / week (if applicable)
		1	2	3	4	
Lectures	Introduction of the research process, research method, and techniques to formulate a research question, conduct a literature review, design data collection, and analysis, establish linkages of design and research	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Tutorials	In class discussion	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Semester Hours:	3 hours per week
Lecture/Tutorial/Laboratory Mix:	Lecture (Mix); Tutorial (Mix); Laboratory (-)
	Mixed lecture and tutorial sessions

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%						
Assignments	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	
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 before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B, B-)	Fair (C+, C, C-)	Marginal (D)	Failure (F)
Assignments	Quality of assignment to reflect student's understanding of the aspects and process of the research, comprehension of the literature reviewed for selected topics in architectural theory and design, ability in identifying the research trend related to Architecture and Urbanism, and depth of exploration of the development of selected research interest into a research plan and architecture thesis proposal	High	Significant	Moderate	Basic	Not even reaching marginal levels

Applicable to students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B)	Marginal (B-, C+, C)	Failure (F)
Assignments	Quality of assignment to reflect student's understanding of the aspects and process of the research, comprehension of the literature reviewed for selected topics in architectural theory and design, ability in identifying the research trend related to Architecture and Urbanism, and depth of exploration of the development of selected research interest into a research plan and architecture thesis proposal.	High	Significant	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.)

Research and design; seminar on the research process, research method, and techniques to formulate a research question, conduct a literature review, design data collection and analysis; Architecture and Urbanism.

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.	Yin. R. K. (1994) Case Study Research: Design and Methods, Sage Publication.
2.	John Zeisel and John P. Eberhard (2006) Inquiry by Design: Environment/Behavior/Neuroscience in Architecture, Interiors, Landscape, and Planning. W. W. Norton.
3.	David Wang, Linda Groat (2018) Architectural Research Methods, Second Edition. Wiley India.
4.	Ajla Aksamija (2021) Research Methods for the Architectural Profession. Routledge.
5.	Charles Jencks (2006) Theories and Manifestoes of Contemporary Architecture, Second Edition. Academy Press.