

**City University of Hong Kong
Course Syllabus**

**offered by Department of English
with effect from Semester A 2024 / 2025**

Part I Course Overview

Course Title:	Self-Directed Research in English Studies
Course Code:	EN8016
Course Duration:	1 semester
Credit Units:	3
Level:	R8
Medium of Instruction:	English
Medium of Assessment:	English
Prerequisites: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	EN8930 Independent Studies and EN8015/EN6471 Research Methods in English Studies
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

The objective of this course is to develop students' academic skills and expertise to carry out independent research and to produce publishable scholarly texts.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

No.	CILOs	Weighting (if applicable)	Discovery-enriched curriculum related learning outcomes		
			A1	A2	A3
1.	Design, conduct, and manage a substantial piece of individual research work relevant to the student's PhD area.		√	√	√
2.	Critically evaluate literature relevant to the student's PhD area.		√	√	√
3.	Apply suitable research methods to conduct the chosen research.		√	√	√
4.	Communicate the results of the research systematically and effectively in the form of a research paper.		√	√	√
		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)

LTA	Brief Description	CILO No.				Hours/week (if applicable)
		1	2	3	4	
Consultation, Research Investigation, and Research Paper Writing	Through independent research and working with a designated supervisor, students conduct investigations into the chosen topic and work on the writing of a full research paper.	√	√	√	√	

4. Assessment Tasks/Activities (ATs)

Assessment Tasks/Activities	CILO No.				Weighting	Remarks
	1	2	3	4		
Continuous Assessment: 100%						
Full research paper Students write up a full research paper of about 5000 – 10,000 words (including references and appendices) reporting on the results of their research.	√	√	√	√	100%	
Examination: _0_% (duration: _____, if applicable)					100%	

5. Assessment 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)
Individual Research Essay	Demonstration of academic knowledge and skills in writing a full research paper	Students demonstrate strong evidence of original thinking and a superior grasp of subject matter. They display outstanding analytic and synthetic abilities in their description of the research undertaken. There is a very clearly identified and potentially significant contribution to knowledge in the topic area. They also consistently maintain a high degree of grammatical accuracy and exhibit a very effective organization of information in the research paper.	Students demonstrate good evidence of original thinking and a good grasp of subject matter. They display good analytic and synthetic abilities in their description of the research undertaken. There is a clearly identified and potentially significant contribution to knowledge in the topic area. They also consistently maintain a good degree of grammatical accuracy and exhibit an effective organization of information in the research paper.	Students demonstrate sufficient understanding of subject matter to enable them to progress with their description of the research undertaken. They display sufficient analytic and synthetic abilities in their description. They also communicate with reasonable accuracy and exhibit an intelligible organization of information in their description.	Students demonstrate sufficient familiarity with subject matter to enable them to progress with their description of the research undertaken. They display weak analytic and synthetic abilities in their description. They can use simple structures correctly but there are often noticeable grammatical anomalies.	Students demonstrate little evidence of familiarity with subject matter. They include irrelevant literature and display noticeable weaknesses in critical and analytic skills. They show limited control of only a few simple grammatical structures and sentence patterns in their description.

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)
Individual Research Essay	Demonstration of academic knowledge and skills in writing a full research paper	Students demonstrate strong evidence of original thinking and a superior grasp of subject matter. They display outstanding analytic and synthetic abilities in their description of the research undertaken. There is a very clearly identified and potentially significant contribution to knowledge in the topic area. They also consistently maintain a high degree of grammatical accuracy and exhibit a very effective organization of information in the research paper.	Students demonstrate good evidence of original thinking and a good grasp of subject matter. They display good analytic and synthetic abilities in their description of the research undertaken. There is a clearly identified and potentially significant contribution to knowledge in the topic area. They also consistently maintain a good degree of grammatical accuracy and exhibit an effective organization of information in the research paper.	Students demonstrate sufficient understanding with subject matter to enable them to progress with their description of the research undertaken. They display some analytic and synthetic abilities in their description. They communicate with reasonable accuracy and exhibit an intelligible organization of information in their description.	Students demonstrate little evidence of familiarity with subject matter. They include irrelevant literature and display noticeable weaknesses in critical and analytic skills. They show limited control of only a few simple grammatical structures and sentence patterns in their description.

Part III Other Information (more details can be provided separately in the teaching plan)

1. Keyword Syllabus

There is no specified syllabus for the course. Students are required to work with a designated supervisor, who will give them guidance regarding the implementation of the research and the write-up of the research paper.

2. Reading List

2.1 Compulsory Readings

There is no specified reading list. Students are expected to search for relevant literature independently.

2.2 Additional Readings