

**City University of Hong Kong
Course Syllabus**

**offered by Department of Information Systems
with effect from Semester A 2022 / 23**

Part I Course Overview

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| Course Title: | Dissertation |
| Course Code: | IS6911 |
| Course Duration: | Two semesters (26 weeks) |
| Credit Units: | 9 |
| Level: | P6 |
| 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> | IS6912 Information Systems Project IS6914 Information Systems Project IS6915 Dissertation |

Part II Course Details

1. Abstract

The aim of the dissertation is to develop expertise in a chosen subject area directly related to the programme, through the application of knowledge and skills provided by other courses in the programme to a specific information systems problem. In undertaking the dissertation the student should demonstrate a clear grasp of the chosen subject matter, a full understanding of the principles being applied, and the ability to manage and present the dissertation in a coherent and precise manner.

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. | Plan, schedule, monitor and control a substantial piece of research or research and development work | 10% | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 2. | Identify a research-based topic of local interest which is also important in the field of information systems | 20% | | | |
| 3. | Select and critically assess material relevant to the chosen problem area | 30% | | | |
| 4. | Apply some of the methods, tools and techniques developed during the programme to analyse systematically the problem area | 30% | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 5. | Communicate effectively, orally and in writing (in the form of a dissertation), a programme of applied research or research and development work in information systems | 10% | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | | 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 | 5 | |
| TLA1: Literature Review | Students conduct supervised reading to deepen their knowledge in the chosen research topic. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| TLA2: Discussion | Students discuss the research framework and subject contents with peer, internal/external supervisors to improve their knowledge of the chosen research topic. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| TLA3: Presentation | Students conduct formal and informal presentations to disseminate their ideas and collect feedback regarding their chosen research topic. | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |

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 | 5 | | |
| Continuous Assessment: 100% | | | | | | | |
| <u>AT1. Presentation</u> Students demonstrate their deep knowledge in the chosen research topic by communicating their findings to the peer and their supervisors. | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 20% | |
| <u>AT2. Dissertation #</u> Students communicate the full details of the chosen research topic by developing a comprehensive dissertation. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 80% | |
| | | | | | | 100% | |

The dissertation will have a maximum of 20,000 words of main text. In keeping with the aim of coherent, concise and precise reporting work in excess of 20,000 words will be discouraged and may be penalised. The main text may be supplemented by appendices, bibliography, etc.

The written dissertation will be marked independently by the supervisor and by a second assessor, who will also be a member of academic staff of the department. The two assessors will each mark to a maximum of 40%, giving a total maximum mark of 80% for the written dissertation. Of the remaining 20% mark for the dissertation course, the quality and timeliness of the interim report will account for 10% and continuous assessment by the supervisor will account for 10%.

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) |
|-------------------|--|-----------------------|--------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| AT1. Presentation | Ability to plan, schedule, monitor and control a substantial piece of research or research and development work | High | Significant | Moderate | Not even reaching marginal levels |
| | Ability to identify a research-based topic of local interest which is also important in the field of information systems | High | Significant | Moderate | Not even reaching marginal levels |
| | Ability to select and critically assess material relevant to the chosen problem area | High | Significant | Moderate | Not even reaching marginal levels |
| | Capability to apply some of the methods, tools and techniques developed during the programme to analyse systematically the problem area | High | Significant | Moderate | Not even reaching marginal levels |
| | Ability to communicate effectively, orally and in writing (in the form of a dissertation), a programme of applied research or research and development work in information systems | High | Significant | Moderate | Not even reaching marginal levels |
| AT2. Dissertation | Ability to plan, schedule, monitor and control a substantial piece of research or research and development work | High | Significant | Moderate | Not even reaching marginal levels |
| | Ability to identify a research-based topic of local interest which is also important in the field of information systems | High | Significant | Moderate | Not even reaching marginal levels |
| | Ability to select and critically assess material relevant to the chosen problem area | High | Significant | Moderate | Not even reaching marginal levels |
| | Capability to apply some of the methods, tools and techniques developed during the programme to analyse systematically the problem area | High | Significant | Moderate | Not even reaching marginal levels |
| | Ability to communicate effectively, orally and in writing (in the form of a dissertation), a programme of applied research or research and development work in information systems | High | Significant | Moderate | Not even reaching marginal levels |

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) |
|------------------------|--|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| AT1. Presentation | Ability to plan, schedule, monitor and control a substantial piece of research or research and development work | High | Significant | Moderate | Basic | Not even reaching marginal levels |
| | Ability to identify a research-based topic of local interest which is also important in the field of information systems | High | Significant | Moderate | Basic | Not even reaching marginal levels |
| | Ability to select and critically assess material relevant to the chosen problem area | High | Significant | Moderate | Basic | Not even reaching marginal levels |
| | Capability to apply some of the methods, tools and techniques developed during the programme to analyse systematically the problem area | High | Significant | Moderate | Basic | Not even reaching marginal levels |
| | Ability to communicate effectively, orally and in writing (in the form of a dissertation), a programme of applied research or research and development work in information systems | High | Significant | Moderate | Basic | Not even reaching marginal levels |
| AT2. Dissertation | Ability to plan, schedule, monitor and control a substantial piece of research or research and development work | High | Significant | Moderate | Basic | Not even reaching marginal levels |
| | Ability to identify a research-based topic of local interest which is also important in the field of information systems | High | Significant | Moderate | Basic | Not even reaching marginal levels |
| | Ability to select and critically assess material relevant to the chosen problem area | High | Significant | Moderate | Basic | Not even reaching marginal levels |
| | Capability to apply some of the methods, tools and techniques developed during the programme to analyse systematically the problem area | High | Significant | Moderate | Basic | Not even reaching marginal levels |
| | Ability to communicate effectively, orally and in writing (in the form of a dissertation), a programme of applied research or research and development work in information systems | 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

(An indication of the key topics of the course.)

Students are required to undertake an individual piece of work which uses the subject matter and skills developed in the course. As a general rule the dissertation covers an area of applied research in information systems, resulting in some form of product (which may be a software product or a management report embodying the result of research) of use or relevance to the employment of the student or to the consulting or research activities of the academic staff.

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.)

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| 1. | Nil |
|----|-----|

2.2 Additional Readings

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

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| 1. | Saunders, M.N.K., Lewis, P. and Thornhill, A. (2019) Research Methods for Business Students, Eighth Edition, Pearson Education |
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