

**City University of Hong Kong  
Course Syllabus**

**offered by Department of Linguistics and Translation  
with effect from Semester A 2024/2025**

---

---

**Part I Course Overview**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Course Title:</b>   | Independent Study  |
| <b>Course Code:</b>  | LT8805   |
| <b>Course Duration:</b>                                      | 1 semester   |
| <b>Credit Units:</b>   | 3  |
| <b>Level:</b>  | R8   |
| <b>Medium of Instruction:</b>                                | English supplemented with Chinese whenever necessary as students might be required to read relevant research materials written in Chinese and use Chinese linguistic data. |
| <b>Medium of Assessment:</b>                                 | English  |
| <b>Prerequisites:</b><br><i>(Course Code and Title)</i>      | Nil  |
| <b>Precursors:</b><br><i>(Course Code and Title)</i>         | Nil  |
| <b>Equivalent Courses:</b><br><i>(Course Code and Title)</i> | Nil  |
| <b>Exclusive Courses:</b><br><i>(Course Code and Title)</i>  | LT8803 Independent Study I and LT 8804 Independent Study II  |

## Part II Course Details

### 1. Abstract

This course aims to develop research students' research skills in carrying out independent study on a relevant topic of their own choice; and deepen their understanding of the topic. Students will be trained to do literature review on the chosen topic, critically evaluate the literature, and conduct a small-scale study based on the critical analysis and evaluation of the literature.

### 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<br>(if applicable) | Discovery-enriched curriculum related learning outcomes (please tick ✓ where appropriate) |    |    |
|-----|--|------------------------------|---|----|----|
|     |  |                              | A1  | A2 | A3 |
| 1.  | Perform adequate research for relevant literature on the chosen research topic;              |                              | ✓   | ✓  |    |
| 2.  | Critically analyse and evaluate the literature;  |                              | ✓   | ✓  |    |
| 3   | Conduct a small-scale study based on the critical analysis and evaluation of the literature. |                              | ✓   | ✓  | ✓  |
|     |  | 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<br>(if applicable) |
|---------------------------------|--|----------|---|---|--|--|--|-------------------------------|
|                                 |  | 1        | 2 | 3 |  |  |  |                               |
| Individual consultation meeting | The student meets the supervisor for report and consultation regularly accordingly to the schedule worked out between them during Week 1 | ✓        | ✓ | ✓ |  |  |  |                               |

#### 4. Assessment Tasks/Activities (ATs)

(ATs are designed to assess how well the students achieve the CIOs.)

| Assessment Tasks/Activities  | CILO No. |   |   |  |  |  | Weighting | Remarks |
|--|----------|---|---|--|--|--|-----------|---------|
|  | 1        | 2 | 3 |  |  |  |           |         |
| Continuous Assessment: <u>100</u> %  |          |   |   |  |  |  |           |         |
| Research paper I : Literature review on the chosen research topic of appropriate length (i.e. length to be acceptable by the supervisor) | ✓        | ✓ |   |  |  |  | 50%       |         |
| Research paper II: Report the findings of a small-scale study of appropriate length (i.e. length to be acceptable by the supervisor)     |          | ✓ | ✓ |  |  |  | 50%       |         |
| Examination: _____% (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 in Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024

| Assessment Task      | Criterion   | Excellent<br>(A+, A, A-)  | Good<br>(B+, B)  | Marginal<br>(B-, C+, C)   | Failure<br>(F)   |
|----------------------|---|---|--|---|--|
| 1. Research Paper I  | Familiarity with the literature<br><br>Critical thinking;<br><br>Analytical ability;<br><br>Clarity of presentation | Strong evidence of familiarity with the literature;<br><br>Strong evidence of critical thinking, and analytical ability.<br><br>Clarity and effectiveness in writing and presentation   | Good evidence of familiarity with the literature;<br><br>Good evidence of critical thinking and analytical ability.<br><br>Effectiveness in writing and presentation   | Marginal familiarity with the subject matter to enable the student to progress without repeating the course;<br><br>Very little sign of analytical ability and critical thinking;<br><br>Weakness in writing and presentation | Insufficient familiarity with the subject matter to enable the student to progress without repeating the course;<br><br>No sign of research and critical thinking;<br><br>Poor in writing and presentation |
| 2. Research Paper II | Familiarity with the subject matter<br><br>Original thinking and research ability;<br><br>Clarity of presentation   | Strong evidence of familiarity with the subject matter;<br><br>Strong evidence of original thinking, and research ability.<br><br>Clarity and effectiveness in writing and presentation | Good evidence of familiarity with the subject matter;<br><br>Good evidence of original thinking and research ability.<br><br>Effectiveness in writing and presentation | Marginal familiarity with the subject matter to enable the student to progress without repeating the course;<br><br>Very little sign of research ability and original thinking;<br><br>Weakness in writing and presentation   | Insufficient familiarity with the subject matter to enable the student to progress without repeating the course;<br><br>No sign of research and original thinking;<br><br>Poor in writing and presentation |

Applicable to students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter

| Assessment Task   | Criterion   | Excellent<br>(A+, A, A-)  | Good<br>(B+, B, B-)  | Fair<br>(C+, C, C-)  | Marginal<br>(D)   | Failure<br>(F)   |
|-------------------|---|---|--|--|---|--|
| Research Paper I  | Familiarity with the literature<br><br>Critical thinking;<br><br>Analytical ability;<br><br>Clarity of presentation | Strong evidence of familiarity with the literature;<br><br>Strong evidence of critical thinking, and analytical ability.<br><br>Clarity and effectiveness in writing and presentation   | Some evidence of familiarity with the literature;<br><br>Some evidence of critical thinking and analytical ability.<br><br>Effectiveness in writing and presentation   | Some understanding of the subject matter;<br><br>Little ability to develop solutions to simple problems;<br><br>Some sign of research; little critical and analytical capacity;<br><br>Some problems in writing and presentation | Marginal familiarity with the subject matter to enable the student to progress without repeating the course;<br><br>Very little sign of analytical ability and critical thinking;<br><br>Weakness in writing and presentation | Insufficient familiarity with the subject matter to enable the student to progress without repeating the course;<br><br>No sign of research and critical thinking;<br><br>Poor in writing and presentation |
| Research Paper II | Familiarity with the subject matter<br><br>Original thinking and research ability;<br><br>Clarity of presentation   | Strong evidence of familiarity with the subject matter;<br><br>Strong evidence of original thinking, and research ability.<br><br>Clarity and effectiveness in writing and presentation | Some evidence of familiarity with the subject matter;<br><br>Some evidence of original thinking and research ability.<br><br>Effectiveness in writing and presentation | Some understanding of the subject matter;<br><br>Little ability to develop solutions to simple problems;<br><br>Some sign of research; little original thinking capacity;<br><br>Some problems in writing and presentation       | Marginal familiarity with the subject matter to enable the student to progress without repeating the course;<br><br>Very little sign of research ability and original thinking;<br><br>Weakness in writing and presentation   | Insufficient familiarity with the subject matter to enable the student to progress without repeating the course;<br><br>No sign of research and original thinking;<br><br>Poor in writing and presentation |

**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.)*

Topics to be covered in the course will depend on students' interest and the availability of expertise among teaching staff on their chosen topics.

**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.)*

Compulsory readings assigned by supervisors

**2.2 Additional Readings**

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

Additional readings assigned by supervisors