City University of Hong Kong Course Syllabus

offered by Department of Public and International Affairs with effect from Semester A 2024/25

Part I Course Overv	view
Course Title:	Research Methods in Public Policy and Management
Course Code:	PIA6603
Course Duration:	One Semester
Credit Units:	3
21 04110 2111 1 5	3
Level:	P6
Medium of	
Instruction:	English
Medium of Assessment:	English
	Ligion
Prerequisites : (Course Code and Title)	Nil
Precursors:	
(Course Code and Title)	Nil
Equivalent Courses:	POI ((02 P
(Course Code and Title)	POL6603 Research Methods in Public Policy and Management
Exclusive Courses: (Course Code and Title)	Nil

Part II Course Details

1. Abstract

With an emphasis on ability and accomplishment this course aims to provide students with basic knowledge and skills in social research methods so that they can analyse questions in policy and management. Students will be required to devise innovative primary research questions, to collect and interpret data and to contribute constructively and creatively to paired and small group work tasks. Particular emphasis will be placed on the critical evaluation of both published research and raw data as presented in a variety of formats. Students will be able to describe and relate various methodological positions, to justify the rationale for conducting primary research and to compare and contrast different types of research.

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)	curricu learnir	very-englum reng outcome tick priate)	lated omes where
1.	Explore the meaning of research, identifying its	15%	AI	A2	A3
1.	purpose, key methodological positions and potential contribution to knowledge.	1370	V	V	
2.	Conduct a literature review on a relevant subject matter in order to generate appropriate and innovative primary research questions.	15%	V	V	
3.	Select the appropriate qualitative and quantitative methods for research design.	30%		V	1
4.	Identify appropriate ways of analysing a given data set to answer a research question.	20%		V	1
5.	Creatively relate the principles of inventory design to the construction of a survey instrument; prepare, design, conduct and analyse an interview; interpret raw and published statistical data, charts and graphs.	20%		1	√
		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.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs) 3.

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

LTA	Brief Description	CII	LO N	0.	_	Hours/week applicable)	(if	
		1	2	3	4	5		
Lectures/Workshops	Presentation of theories, concepts and ideas based on academic literature (including course readings). Course lecturer responds to questions raised by students attending the workshops and facilitates discussion and class exercises.	V	V	V	V	V		
Individual and group-based work	Part summative, part formative the work sheets have been created to reinforce and expand learning gained through the content of lectures, workshops, and readings. Students will be required to demonstrate their mastery of a variety of research methods and accomplish set tasks creatively.	V	V	V	V	V		
Canvas	Readings, slides, and other materials to support lectures and workshops posted for students to download.	V	V	1	1	V		
Independent reading	Readings listed in course outline to be read by every student. The focus of the readings is guided by accompanying worksheets that highlight important concepts and give students an opportunity to apply ideas.	V	V	V	V	V		

4. Assessment Tasks/Activities (ATs)

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

Assessment Tasks/Activities		LO N	o.			Weighting	Remarks
		2	3	4	5		
Continuous Assessment: 50%							
Research proposal: select a topic, develop research question(s), hypothesis and outline the appropriate research methods. (max. 1000 words excluding references)		1				30%	Individual
In-class activities: interview, questionnaire design, and interpreting statistical data.		$\sqrt{}$	$\sqrt{}$		1	20%	Small groups
Examination: 50 % (duration: 2 hours)							
Final examination (closed book)					V	50%	Individual
						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	Criterion	Excellent	Good	Fair	Marginal	Failure
Task		(A+, A, A-)	(B+, B, B-)	(C+, C, C-)	(D)	(F)
Research	Design of	A+: High standard of	B+: Fairly high standard	C+: Rudimentary	Poor standard of being	Almost no standard of
proposal	topic	being able to recognise,	of being able to	standard of being able to	able to recognise, explain	being able to recognise,
		explain and compare	recognise, explain and	recognise, explain and	and compare distinct	explain and compare
Questionnaire	Design of the	distinct methodological	compare distinct	compare distinct	methodological	distinct methodological
(in-class	questionnaire	approaches drawn from	methodological	methodological	approaches drawn from	approaches drawn from
activity)		social sciences.	approaches drawn from	approaches drawn from	social sciences.	social sciences.
Interpretation	Interpretation		social sciences.	social sciences.	Very little innovative	No innovative ability to
of data (in-	skills	A: Highly innovative		~	ability to relate literature	relate literature review of
class activity)		ability to relate literature	B: Fairly innovative	C: Little innovative	review of cutting-edge	cutting-edge topic to
Interview	Analytical	review of cutting-edge	ability to relate literature	ability to relate literature	topic to creation of	creation of primary
questions and	skills	topic to creation of	review of cutting-edge	review of cutting-edge	primary research	research inventory.
analysis (in-	SKIIIS	primary research	topic to creation of	topic to creation of	inventory.	Almost no demonstration
class activity)		inventory.	primary research	primary research	Very little demonstration	of critical ability to
Final	Methods	A . C4 1	inventory.	inventory.	of critical ability to	interpret a broad range of
examination	selection,	A-: Strong demonstration of critical ability to select	D . E-int 4	C-: Weak demonstration	interpret a broad range of	graphs, charts and
CAUTITION	interpretation	the appropriate	B-: Fairly good demonstration of critical	of critical ability to	graphs, charts and statistical data.	statistical data. Very inadequate
	and analytical	methodology and	ability to interpret a broad	interpret a broad range of	Weak accomplishment of	accomplishment of
	skills	interpret a broad range of	range of graphs, charts	graphs, charts and	grounded interview data	grounded interview data
		graphs, charts and	and statistical data.	statistical data.	following preparation and	following preparation and
		statistical data.	Good accomplishment of	Basic accomplishment of	application of interview	application of interview
		Excellent	grounded interview data	grounded interview data	questions related to	questions related to
		accomplishment of	following preparation and	following preparation and	critical subject matter.	critical subject matter.
		grounded interview data	application of interview	application of interview	Very little ability to	Almost no ability to
		following preparation and	questions related to	questions related to	conduct relevant and	conduct relevant and
		application of interview	critical subject matter.	critical subject matter.	creative documentary	creative documentary
		questions related to	Fairly strong ability to	Basic ability to conduct	analysis for given set of	analysis for given set of
		critical subject matter.	conduct relevant and	relevant and creative	documentary evidence.	documentary evidence.
		Strong ability to conduct	creative documentary	documentary analysis for		
		relevant and creative	analysis for given set of	given set of documentary		
		documentary analysis for	documentary evidence.	evidence.		
		given set of documentary				
		evidence.				

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

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent	Good	Marginal	Failure
		(A+, A, A-)	(B+, B)	(B-, C+, C)	(F)
Research proposal	Design of topic	A+: High standard of being able to recognise, explain and compare	B+: Fairly high standard of being able to recognise, explain and compare	B-: Fairly good demonstration of critical ability to interpret a broad	Almost no standard of being able to recognise, explain and compare
Questionnaire (in- class activity)	Design of the questionnaire	distinct methodological approaches drawn from social sciences.	distinct methodological approaches drawn from social sciences.	range of graphs, charts and statistical data. Good accomplishment of	distinct methodological approaches drawn from social sciences.
Interpretation of data (in-class activity)	Interpretation skills	A: Highly innovative ability to relate literature	B: Fairly innovative ability to relate literature	grounded interview data following preparation and application of interview	No innovative ability to relate literature review of cutting-edge topic to
Interview questions and analysis (in-class activity)	Analytical skills	review of cutting-edge topic to creation of primary research	review of cutting-edge topic to creation of primary research	questions related to critical subject matter. Fairly strong ability to	creation of primary research inventory. Almost no demonstration
Final examination	Methods selection, interpretation and analytical skills	inventory. A-: Strong demonstration of critical ability to select the appropriate methodology and interpret a broad range of graphs, charts and statistical data. Excellent accomplishment of grounded interview data following preparation and application of interview questions related to critical subject matter. Strong ability to conduct relevant and creative documentary analysis for given set of documentary evidence.	inventory.	conduct relevant and creative documentary analysis for given set of documentary evidence. C+: Rudimentary standard of being able to recognise, explain and compare distinct methodological approaches drawn from social sciences. C: Little innovative ability to relate literature review of cutting-edge topic to creation of primary research inventory.	of critical ability to interpret a broad range of graphs, charts and statistical data. Very inadequate accomplishment of grounded interview data following preparation and application of interview questions related to critical subject matter. Almost no ability to conduct relevant and creative documentary analysis for given set of documentary evidence.

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.)

Theory and philosophy of research; quantitative and qualitative research methods; conducting literature review; generating primary research questions; questionnaire design and measurement; data analysis; interpreting graphs and charts, qualitative and quantitative document analysis, interview techniques; focus groups; case study; participant and non-participant observations; research ethics

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.)

Required reading assignments listed on course outline and provided through Canvas.

2.2 Additional Readings

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

Optional readings listed on course outline and provided through Canvas.