City University of Hong Kong
Course Syllabus

offered by School of Creative Media
with effect from Semester A 2024/25

Part I   Course Overview

Course Title:	**Thesis Proposal Development**
Course Code:	**SM8407**
Course Duration:	**One semester**
Credit Units:	**3**
Level:	**R8**
Medium of Instruction:	**English**
Medium of Assessment:	**English**
Prerequisites: *(Course Code and Title)*	**Nil**
Precursors: *(Course Code and Title)*	**Nil**
Equivalent Courses: *(Course Code and Title)*	**Nil**
Exclusive Courses: *(Course Code and Title)*	**Nil**

Part II   Course Details

1.   **Abstract**

This course will enable beginning doctoral students to craft a solid thesis proposal in preparation for writing their thesis. Students will be introduced to the rationale of the thesis proposal and will receive step by step guidance on composing each of its elements and unifying the whole. Students will review salient theses and thesis proposals in their field. They will then compose each part of the thesis in turn before integrating them into a unified proposal. The learning process in this course is iterative and collaborative. Each element of the student's proposal will be reviewed by the instructor and scrutinized by their peers in a shared classroom process. Each participant will learn from their peers as well as from the instructor to maximize learning outcomes.

2.   **Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)**

No.	CILOs	Weighting (if applicable)	Discovery-enriched curriculum related learning outcomes		
			A1	*A2*	*A3*
1.	Define research topic and goals		✓	✓	
2.	Evaluate existing research and articulate contribution to knowledge		✓	✓	
3.	Construct a methodology by specifying theories and methods and how they fit research topic and goals		✓	✓	
4.	Explain criteria for evaluating research and what counts as success		✓	✓	
5.	Outline a thesis structure and explain rationale for that structure.		✓	✓	
		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)
Class Presentations	Weekly presentation and critique of developing research proposal	1,2,3,4,5	
Group Sharing	Weekly peer review of developing research proposal	1,2,3,4,5	
Teacher Review	Weekly teacher review of developing research proposal	1,2,3,4,5	
Class Discussion and Analysis	Weekly sharing and discussion of best practices	1,2,3,4,5	

4. Assessment Tasks/Activities (ATs)

Assessment Tasks/Activities	CILO No.	Weighting	Remarks
Thesis Treatment	1	10%	
Literature Review and Annotated Bibliography	2	20%	
Methodology	3, 4	20%	
Chapter Breakdown	5	20%	
Final Proposal	1,2,3,4,5	30%	
		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)	Fair (C+,C,C-)	Marginal (D)	Failure (F)
Thesis Treatment	Ability to define coherent and achievable research topic and goals	Very effective with high potential research merit and feasibility	Effective with good potential research merit and feasibility	Moderately effective with some potential research merit and feasibility	Minimally effective with little research merit and feasibility	Lacking research merit and feasibility
Literature Review and Annotated Bibliography	Ability to evaluate existing research and articulate contribution to the field	Very effective with high potential to contribute to field	Effective with good potential to contribute to field	Moderately effective with some potential to contribute to field	Minimally effective with little potential to contribute to field	Lacking effectivity with no potential to contribute to field
Methodology	Ability to develop a coherent research design where theory and method is correctly matched to research topic and goals	Very effective with high potential research merit and feasibility	Effective with good potential research merit and feasibility	Moderately effective with some potential research merit and feasibility	Minimally effective with little research merit and feasibility	Lacking research merit and feasibility
Chapter Breakdown	Ability to develop a coherent, complete, and achievable structure for the dissertation	Very effective with high potential research merit and feasibility	Effective with good potential research merit and feasibility	Moderately effective with some potential research merit and feasibility	Minimally effective with little research merit and feasibility	Lacking research merit and feasibility
Final Proposal	Ability to produce complete statement of research design with sound research merit and feasibility	Very effective with high potential research merit and feasibility	Effective with good potential research merit and feasibility	Moderately effective with some potential research merit and feasibility	Minimally effective with little research merit and feasibility	Lacking research merit and feasibility

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)
Thesis Treatment	Ability to define coherent and achievable research topic and goals	Very effective with high potential research merit and feasibility	Effective with good potential research merit and feasibility	Moderately effective with some potential research merit and feasibility	Lacking research merit and feasibility
Literature Review and Annotated Bibliography	Ability to evaluate existing research and articulate contribution to the field	Very effective with high potential to contribute to field	Effective with good potential to contribute to field	Moderately effective with some potential to contribute to field	Lacking effectivity with no potential to contribute to field
Methodology	Ability to develop a coherent research design where theory and method is correctly matched to research topic and goals	Very effective with high potential research merit and feasibility	Effective with good potential research merit and feasibility	Moderately effective with some potential research merit and feasibility	Lacking research merit and feasibility
Chapter Breakdown	Ability to develop a coherent, complete, and achievable structure for the dissertation	Very effective with high potential research merit and feasibility	Effective with good potential research merit and feasibility	Moderately effective with some potential research merit and feasibility	Lacking research merit and feasibility
Final Proposal	Ability to produce complete statement of research design with sound research merit and feasibility	Very effective with high potential research merit and feasibility	Effective with good potential research merit and feasibility	Moderately effective with some potential research merit and feasibility	Moderately effective with some potential research merit and feasibility

Part III   Other Information

1.   Keyword Syllabus

Thesis Proposal, Writing a Thesis, Literature Review, Methodology, Chapter Breakdown.

2.   Reading List
2.1 Compulsory Readings

1.	Sample proposals to be selected by students in consultation with professor
2.	Sample theses to be selected by students in consultation with professor

2.2 Additional Readings

Nil.