

**City University of Hong Kong
Course Syllabus**

**offered by Department of Social and Behavioural Sciences
with effect from Semester A 2024/2025**

Part I Course Overview

Course Title:	<u>Directed Study in Research Methods</u>
Course Code:	<u>SS8802</u>
Course Duration:	<u>1 Semester</u>
Credit Units:	<u>2</u>
Level:	<u>R8</u>
Medium of Instruction:	<u>English</u>
Medium of Assessment:	<u>English</u>
Prerequisites: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	<u>Nil</u>
Precursors: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	<u>Nil</u>
Equivalent Courses: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	<u>Nil</u>
Exclusive Courses: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	<u>Nil</u>

Part II Course Details

1. Abstract

The aim of the course is to equip research degree students with knowledge and competence in selected research methodologies.

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.	describe the background knowledge including history and development of specific methods relevant to their research;	10%	✓		
2.	identify research designs and the rationale of these designs in respect of their research;	20%	✓		
3.	critically examine strengths and limitations of different methods;	30%	✓	✓	
4.	apply relevant methodologies and strategies in their research.	40%	✓	✓	✓
		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 (if applicable)
		1	2	3	4			
Individual Consultation		✓	✓	✓	✓			
Report Writing		✓	✓	✓	✓			
Report Presentation		✓	✓	✓	✓			

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				
Continuous Assessment: 100%								
Short Essays	✓	✓	✓	✓			40%	
Extended Essay	✓	✓	✓	✓			60%	
Examination: _____% (duration: _____, if applicable)								
							100%	

AT1: Short Essays (40%)

Students are required to write two short essays (each around 1,000 words).

AT2: Extended Essay (60%)

Students are required to write one extended essay of around 3,000 words.

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 Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B, B-)	Fair (C+, C, C-)	Marginal (D)	Failure (F)
1. Short essays	Capability to understand and examine critically, apply innovatively the theories and findings from empirical research.	Strong evidence for the capability to understand and examine critically, apply innovatively the theories and empirical research.	Good evidence for the capability to understand and examine critically, apply innovatively the theories and empirical research.	Fair evidence for the capability to understand and examine critically, apply innovatively the theories and empirical research.	Limited evidence for the capability to understand and examine critically, apply innovatively the theories and empirical research.	Insufficient evidence for the capability to understand and examine critically, apply innovatively the theories and empirical research.
2. Extended essay	Capability to understand and examine critically, apply innovatively the theories and findings from empirical research.	Strong evidence for the capability to understand and examine critically, apply innovatively the theories and empirical research.	Good evidence for the capability to understand and examine critically, apply innovatively the theories and empirical research.	Fair evidence for the capability to understand and examine critically, apply innovatively the theories and empirical research.	Limited evidence for the capability to understand and examine critically, apply innovatively the theories and empirical research.	Insufficient evidence for the capability to understand and examine critically, apply innovatively the theories and empirical research.

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)
1. Short essays	Capability to understand and examine critically, apply innovatively the theories and findings from empirical research.	Strong evidence for the capability to understand and examine critically, apply innovatively the theories and empirical research.	Good evidence for the capability to understand and examine critically, apply innovatively the theories and empirical research.	Fair to limited evidence for the capability to understand and examine critically, apply innovatively the theories and empirical research.	Insufficient evidence for the capability to understand and examine critically, apply innovatively the theories and empirical research.
2. Extended essay	Capability to understand and examine critically, apply innovatively the theories and findings from empirical research.	Strong evidence for the capability to understand and examine critically, apply innovatively the theories and empirical research.	Good evidence for the capability to understand and examine critically, apply innovatively the theories and empirical research.	Fair to limited evidence for the capability to understand and examine critically, apply innovatively the theories and empirical research.	Insufficient evidence for the capability to understand and examine critically, apply innovatively the theories and empirical research.

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.)

The syllabus is an individualized one, to be compiled by the Supervisor, in consultation with the students. Members of the Qualifying panel should be consulted for their input.

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.)

A list of required readings should be provided by the Supervisor.

2.2 Additional Readings

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

n/a