

THE EDUCATION UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Course Outline

Part I

Programme Title	: Bachelor of Social Sciences (Honours) in Policy Science and Management
Programme QF Level	: 5
Course Title	: Tool Kits for Policy Analysis
Course Code	: SSC2254
Department	: Asian and Policy Studies
Credit Points	: 3
Contact Hours	: 39
Pre-requisite(s)	: Nil
Medium of Instruction	: EMI
Course Level	: 2

Part II

The University's Graduate Attributes and seven Generic Intended Learning Outcomes (GILOs) represent the attributes of ideal EdUHK graduates and their expected qualities respectively. Learning outcomes work coherently at the University (GILOs), programme (Programme Intended Learning Outcomes) and course (Course Intended Learning Outcomes) levels to achieve the goal of nurturing students with important graduate attributes.

In gist, the Graduate Attributes for Undergraduate, Taught Postgraduate and Research Postgraduate students consist of the following three domains (i.e. in short "PEER & I"):

- Professional Excellence;
- Ethical Responsibility; &
- Innovation.

The descriptors under these three domains are different for the three groups of students in order to reflect the respective level of Graduate Attributes.

The seven GILOs are:

1. Problem Solving Skills
2. Critical Thinking Skills
3. Creative Thinking Skills
- 4a. Oral Communication Skills
- 4b. Written Communication Skills
5. Social Interaction Skills
6. Ethical Decision Making
7. Global Perspectives

1. Course Synopsis

This course seeks to train students in advanced methods for policy analysis and evaluation, allowing student to acquire in-depth, sophisticated skills associated with quantitative techniques. Specifically, it will equip students with advanced quantitative analytical skills, including data collection and organisation, use of graphs and descriptive statistics, regression analysis and statistical inference and developing policy implications of empirical findings. It will use a series of concrete examples to demonstrate the usefulness and practicality of these skills, thereby ensuring student understanding the applicability and applications of a quantitative research concept to solve real-world problems in public decision making.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- CILO₁ Understand the rationale behind quantitative policy research;
- CILO₂ Conduct basic data analysis using SPSS;
- CILO₃ Appreciate and critically evaluate quantitative research methods; and
- CILO₄ Conduct basic group quantitative study.

3. Content, CILOs and Teaching & Learning Activities

Course Content	CILOs	Suggested Teaching & Learning Activities
Introducing meaning and rationale of quantitative research	CILO _{1,3,4}	• Lectures, group discussion, and group exercise
Learning to use SPSS and analyse data result	CILO ₂	• Lectures, group discussion, and group exercise
Conduct basic group quantitative study	CILO ₄	• Lectures, group discussion, and group exercise

4. Assessment

Assessment Tasks	Weighting (%)	CILO
(a) Class Discussion and Participation: Students are expected to read relevant readings, case examples, quantitative techniques before s/he attends the tutorials and must participate actively in the discussion. Students' engagement and participation are evaluated accordingly.	20%	CILO ₁₋₄
(b) Assigned quantitative project and analysis: Students will be assigned a policy problem / example, with students asked to prepare a quantitative analysis of the problem in relation to the use of various quantitative approaches and to assess critically the most appropriate quantitative tools and approaches in assessing the policy problem / case example.	40%	CILO ₁₋₄
(c) Group Presentation: The class will be separated into several groups. Students are expected to formulate a research question and some arguments using quantitative research methods addressed in the lectures. After the presentation, students are expected to submit an individual reflective essay (200 words) to report the entire learning experience in the group project (self-evaluation of	40%	CILO ₁₋₄

individual contribution to the group project should be included).		
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5. Required Text(s)

- Babbie, E. (2010). *The basics of social research*. Australia: Wadsworth.
- Bardach, E. (2011). *A practical guide for policy analysis: The eightfold path to more*
- Dunn, W. N. (2008). *Public policy analysis: An introduction (4th edition). effective problem solving (4th edition)*. Los Angeles: CQ Press. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice Hall.
- Kirkpatrick, L. A., Feeney, B. C. (2013). *A simple guide to IBM SPSS statistics for*
- Pallant, J. (2010). *SPSS survival manual: A step by step guide to data analysis using SPSS*. Maidenhead: Open University Press/McGraw-Hill. versions 20.0. Belmont, Calif.: Wadsworth.

6. Recommended Readings

- Bell, J. (2005). *Doing your research project: A guide for first-time researchers in education, health and social science (4th edition)*. Maidenhead, England: Open University Press.
- Blaxter, L., Hughes, C., & Tight, M. (2001). *How to research*. Buckingham: Open University Press.
- Booth, W. C., Colomb, G. G., & Williams, J. M. (2003). *The craft of research (2nd edition)*. Chicago, Il: US: University of Chicago Press.
- Della Porta, D. & Keating, M. (2008). *Approaches and methodologies in the social sciences: A pluralist perspective*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Gerald, S.K. (2009). *Evidence and explanation in social science: An interdisciplinary approach*. London: Routledge.
- Harvey, F.P. & Brecher, M. (Eds.). (2002). *Evaluating methodology in international studies*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.
- Marsh, D. & Stoker, G. (Eds). (1995). *Theory and methods in political science*. Basingstoke, England: Macmillan.

7. Related Web Resources

- University of California, Los Angeles (Institute for Digital Research and Education): <https://stats.idre.ucla.edu/other/annotatedoutput/>
- World Bank data base: <http://databank.worldbank.org>
- National Bureau of Statistics, PRC: <http://www.stats.gov.cn/tjsj/>
- East Asian Social Survey: www.eassda.org
- Census and Statistics Department, HKSAR: <http://www.censtatd.gov.hk/home/index.jsp>

8. Related Journals

Use as necessary

9. Academic Honesty

The Institute adopts a zero tolerance policy to plagiarism. For the Institute's policy on plagiarism, please refer to the Policy on Academic Honesty, Responsibility and Integrity with Specific Reference to the Avoidance of Plagiarism by Students (<https://www.eduhk.hk/re/modules/downloads/visit.php?cid=9&lid=89>). Students should familiarize themselves with the Policy.

10. Others
Nil.

Last updated: 7 January 2019