THE EDUCATION UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Course Outline

Part I

Programme Title : Bachelor of Social Sciences (Honours) in Greater China Studies
Programme QF Level : 5
Course Title : Methods of Inquiry
Course Code : SSC1204
Department : Department of Asian and Policy Studies
Credit Points : 3
Contact Hours : 39
Pre-requisite(s) : Nil
Medium of Instruction : EMI
Course Level : 1

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 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 provides a basic introduction to the concepts of research in social sciences, in particular policy studies. They will be exposed to research concepts and proper citation methods; how to begin with a research topic; different research methods, ethical principles and challenges, and the elements of research process within quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods approaches. Participants will use these theoretical underpinnings to critically review literature relevant to their interests and how research findings are interpreted to support their objectives in exploring the research topic.

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

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

   - CILO1: understand research concepts and terminology
   - CILO2: understand research principles and ethics
   - CILO3: understand how to formulate a workable research topic and research questions
   - CILO4: identify the components of a literature review process
   - CILO5: understand different methods of research approaches
   - CILO6: understand how to analyse the data collected

3. **CILOs, Content and Teaching & Learning Activities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Content</th>
<th>CILOs</th>
<th>Suggested Teaching &amp; Learning Activities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research concepts, principles, and ethics</td>
<td>CILO1,2,3</td>
<td>Lecture and case studies in tutorial in relating to research ethics and principles; readings and discussions, exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods, research methods on policy studies</td>
<td>CILO5,6</td>
<td>Lecture and exercises during tutorial, readings and discussion (in-class or online), exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Getting started with the research topic, literature review and citation</td>
<td>CILO1,3,4,5</td>
<td>Research Plan Presentation, Lecture and examination</td>
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<tr>
<td>Problem identification and problem analysis in social innovation</td>
<td>CILO3</td>
<td>Tutorial, workshop</td>
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4. **Assessment**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Assessment Tasks</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
<th>CILO</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(a) Participation (in-class and online)</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>CILO1,2,3,4,5,6</td>
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<tr>
<td>(b) Group Research Plan Presentation</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>CILO1,2,3,4,5,6</td>
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<tr>
<td>(c) Examination</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>CILO1,2,3,4,5,6</td>
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5. **Required Text(s)**

6. **Recommended Readings**


7. **Related Web Resources**
8. Related Journals

*Social Indicators Research*. Springer.
*Sociological Methods and Research*. Sage.

9. Academic Honesty

The University adopts a zero tolerance policy to plagiarism. For the University’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](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: 26 August 2019