

THE EDUCATION UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Course Outline

Part I

Programme Title	: Doctor of Education and Research Postgraduate Programmes
Programme QF Level	: 7
Course Title	: Research Methods I & II
Course Code	: EDD8016 and EDD8017
Department	: Graduate School
Credit Points	: 3 for each of Research Methods I & II
Contact Hours	: 39 hours for each of Research Methods I & II
Pre-requisite(s)	: N/A
Medium of Instruction	: English
Course Level	: 8

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

Research Method Blocks together aim to start building students' foundation knowledge of quantitative and qualitative methods at a doctoral level. Then the Blocks will provide students with a deeper understanding of concepts and principles in quantitative research methods and to advance their mastery of qualitative research skills. Students will develop competence in quantitative and qualitative research through lectures, critical reading, discussions, hands-on practices in study design, data collection and analysis.

The two courses together consist of eleven module blocks: (i) one block of Fundamental of Statistical Concepts; (ii) four blocks of quantitative methods; (iii) three blocks of qualitative methods; (iv) two blocks of methods for humanities and (v) one block of fundamentals of educational and social research methods. The integration of the eleven module blocks provides solid training and background for doctoral studies in education, social sciences and humanities. Students can choose and complete a minimum of six out of eleven module blocks after consultation with their supervisors / Programme Director / Area Coordinators.

1.1 Sub-synopsis

Fundamental Concepts of Statistics

This Block is for students with very little or no prior training in statistics and prepares them if they wish to proceed to enroll in the Blocks covering quantitative methods.

Quantitative Research Methods

The four Blocks together covers introductory (1 Block) to intermediate (1 Block) to advanced (2 Blocks) methods commonly used in studies employing quantitative or mixed methods. Topics covered include basic inferential statistics, correlation and regression, the concept and analysis of moderation and mediation, as well as path models and structural equation models. The analysis of real world data using statistical packages such as SPSS and R will also be included.

Qualitative Research Methods

The 3 Blocks together serves as an introduction to qualitative research methods, with a core focus on the interactive and iterative nature of qualitative research design consisting of the components of researcher identity, research goals, conceptual

frameworks, qualitative research approaches and questions, data collection and analysis, and questions of quality and validity. Assessment tasks are designed to engage students in continual reflection on and active participation in design, data collection and analysis, and using the results to strengthen research proposals.

Research Methods for Humanities

The 2 Blocks together will acquaint students with approaches, methods, and theories needed to understand and employ in research in the humanities. Students will begin to articulate a plan for completing their own doctoral project. One Block will focus on research approaches and different methods commonly used in the area of linguistics and applied linguistics. It will introduce students to the current trends in linguistics research in various major areas of linguistics. Another Block will focus on preparing students to understand their own work in relation to dominant paradigms and trends in their own field of research, whether it be English or Chinese literatures, English or Chinese literary cultures.

Fundamentals of Educational and Social Research Methods

This Block is for students with basic knowledge in educational and social research methods, and prepare them to design questionnaire and to select suitable approaches and research methods in policy research and curriculum and teaching research.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILO_s)

Upon completion of the block(s) provided by Research Methods I & II, students will be able to achieve the following CILO(s) based on their selection of block(s):

- CILO₁ Know the key measures of location and dispersion of a set of data, and recognize the features of the measures; explain probability distributions and their parameters; master the concepts of sampling, sampling distribution and sample statistics; make inference on the population by observing and analyzing sample data.

- CILO₂ Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the principles and concepts of quantitative research methods in educational and social research; systematically review and appraise methodological and statistical issues of published reports critically; use different statistical software programs to manage and analyze research data; present numerical and statistical information in a professional manner.

- CILO₃ Discuss the nature of qualitative design, epistemological foundations, and

types of research questions of qualitative research; design a conceptual framework and questions, data collection methods for qualitative research methods on their topic of research; analyze qualitative data with the assistance of appropriate qualitative data analysis software; write a short proposal for a qualitative research project.

CILO₄ Have an overview of possible research topics in language studies and linguistic research; design and carry out independent research in the area of language studies and linguistic research; design common types of questionnaire in language studies and linguistic research; design interview guideline and do qualitative analysis.

CILO₅ Articulate approaches, methods, and theories used in humanistic Research; define and design a coherent plan for their own doctoral Research; relate their own approach to the range of available options, and defend the value and meaning of their research in terms appropriate to their chosen field.

3. Content, CILOs and Teaching & Learning Activities

Fundamental Concepts of Statistics			
One Block	Descriptive Statistics; Probability Distributions; Sampling Distribution; Point and Interval Estimations and Basic Inferential Statistics	CILO ₁	Lecturing and Discussion with some online learning materials provided

Quantitative Research Methods			
One Block	Hypothesis Testing; Power and Sample Size Determination	CILO ₂	Lecture, Computer lab, Tutorial (SPSS; G*Power; R)
One Block	Correlation and Regression		
One Block	Moderation; Mediation; Path Analysis		
One Block	Structural Equation Modeling (SEM)		

Qualitative Research Methods			
One Block	Foundation of Qualitative Research; Research Design; Conceptual Frameworks	CILO ₃	Lecture, small-group & class discussion,

	and Research Questions for Qualitative Studies		interview activity, observation activity, coding activity proposal assignment
One Block	Overview of Data Collection Methods, Participant Observation, Planning Interviews, Conducting Interviews		
One Block	Qualitative Research Approaches; Data Analysis: Coding & Theorizing; Presenting and Proposing Qualitative Research		

Humanities Research Methods			
One Block	Research in Humanities; Emerging Trends in Contemporary Humanities Research; Designing Informed Humanities Research; Field Positioning for Graduate Students	<i>CILO₄</i>	Lecture, classwork, tutorial
One Block	Language Studies and Linguistics: Areas of interest in linguistics; Empirical research design; Questionnaire design; Interview studies	<i>CILO₅</i>	

Fundamentals of Educational and Social Research Methods			
One Block	Systematic Review; Questionnaire Design; Methods Commonly used in Policy Research and Curriculum and Teaching Research	<i>CILO₁</i> <i>CILO₂</i>	Lecture, group discussion, presentation

4. Assessment

Assessment Tasks	Weighting (%)	CILO
Block 1: Fundamental Concepts of Statistics		
(a) Online Test(s)	40%	<i>CILO₁</i>
(b) Quiz	60%	
Block 2: Quantitative Research Methods I		
(a) Take-home Exercise	40%	<i>CILO₂</i>
(b) Mini-Research Project	60%	
Block 3: Quantitative Research Methods II		
(a) Take-home Exercise	40%	<i>CILO₂</i>
(b) Mini-Research Project	60%	
Block 5: Quantitative Research Methods III		
(a) Take-home Exercise	40%	<i>CILO₂</i>

(b) Mini-Research Project	60%	
Block 6: Quantitative Research Methods IV		
(a) Take-home Exercise	40%	<i>CILO₂</i>
(b) Mini-Research Project	60%	
Block 4: Qualitative Research Methods I		
Written report explaining a qualitative research question on students' own topic of research (1200-1500 words)	100%	<i>CILO₃</i>
Block 7: Qualitative Research Methods II		
Participant observation/interview exercise memo (1200-1500 words)	100%	<i>CILO₃</i>
Block 8: Qualitative Research Methods III		
Proposal for a qualitative research projects (>2000 words)	100%	<i>CILO₃</i>
Block 9: Humanities Research Methods: Research Methods in Language Studies and Linguistics		
A mini research proposal	100%	<i>CILO₄</i>
Block 10: Humanities Research Methods: Research Methods in Literature and Culture		
Annotated bibliography (1200-1500 words)	100%	<i>CILO₅</i>
Block 11: Fundamentals of Educational and Social Research Methods		
Assignment	100%	<i>CILO_{1,2}</i>

5. Required Text(s)

For Blocks in “Fundamental Concepts of Statistics”, “Quantitative Research Methods” and “Fundamentals of Educational and Social Research Methods”

No prescribed text; reading lists will be provided during the lectures.

For Blocks in “Qualitative Research Methods”

Maxwell, J. A. (2013). *Qualitative research design: An interactive approach (3rd Edition)*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

<http://library.eduhk.hk/record=b2048038~S5>

For the Block in “Research Methods in Language Studies and Linguistics”

Wray, A., & Bloomer, A. (2013). *Projects in Linguistics. A practical guide to researching language*. London, New York: Routledge

6. Recommended Readings

The full list for each Block will be provided in class.

7. Related Web Resources

The full list for each Block will be provided in class.

8. Related Journals

The full list for each Block will be provided in class.

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>). Students should familiarize themselves with the Policy.

10. Others

Nil

September 2019