

THE EDUCATION UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Course Outline

Part I

Programme Title	: Master of Arts in Education for Sustainability
Programme QF Level	: 6
Course Title	: Thesis Writing and Research Thesis Project on EfS
Course Code	: SES6026
Department	: Science and Environmental Studies
Credit Points	: 6
Contact Hours	: 78
Pre-requisite(s)	: NIL
Medium of Instruction	: English
Course Level	: 6

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 will provide guidance and training and enable students to undertake research to produce a thesis on a topic relevant to EfS. The course comprises two parts, including a course on thesis writing and a research thesis project on EfS.

Part I: Thesis Writing

This course is designed to support students in writing a thesis. Course topics will generally include the major conventions of academic writing and methodological tools for a Master's thesis, and approaches to structure and style in thesis writing. In particular, it will maximise students' participation and lecturer-student dialogues throughout the initial stages of thesis preparation.

Part II: Research Thesis Project on EfS

This project will require students to complete their research theses over two semesters in Year 1, based on the proposals they develop through the research and thesis-writing skills courses. The topics should be relevant to the major themes and issues related to EfS. Students will be expected to seek advice on the selection of their theses topics with their respective supervisors and to get approval from their supervisor before working on their theses (refer to the assessment task for SES6024 – Research in Education for Sustainability). The thesis writing outlines will follow those guidelines developed by the Graduate Programme Office.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

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

- CILO₁ Understand the major conventions and practical issues of academic writing essentials for the successful completion of a Master's thesis.
- CILO₂ Demonstrate abilities to form researchable EfS thesis topics, perform a good literature review, select appropriate methodological tools and follow logical structures and styles in thesis writing.
- CILO₃ Adopt inquiry and learn-by-doing approaches to discuss and exchange ideas from other students' multiple perspectives for their own thesis topics, research questions, literature reviews and methodologies.
- CILO₄ Complete the writing of their theses under the supervision of their respective supervisors.

3. Content, CILOs and Teaching & Learning Activities

Course Content	CILOs	Suggested Teaching & Learning Activities
Thesis introduction	CILO _{1,2,3}	- Lecture - Small group discussions i. Students commend sample thesis introductions. ii. Students exchange ideas for their potential thesis topics.
Literature	CILO _{1,2,3}	- Lecture

review		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small group discussions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Students commend sample literature reviews. ii. Students exchange ideas on practical issues arising from the review of the literature relevant to their potential research topics.
Research methods (recap of SES6024)	<i>CILO</i> _{1,2,3,4}	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lecture - Small group discussions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Students commend sample research methods. ii. Students exchange ideas about the selection of research methods to address their proposed research questions.
Writing up findings	<i>CILO</i> _{1,2,3}	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lecture - Small group discussions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Students exchange ideas on how to structure the findings chapter.
Thesis conclusion	<i>CILO</i> _{1,2,3}	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lecture - Small group discussions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students commend sample conclusion chapters.
Writing of thesis	<i>CILO</i> ₄	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Under the supervision of supervisor

4. Assessment

Assessment Tasks	Weighting (%)	CILO
Part I: Students must have completed the thesis plan as required in SES6024 prior to commencement of the thesis.	N/A	<i>CILO</i> _{1,2,3}
Part II: Thesis (10,000 words)	100	<i>CILO</i> ₄

5. Required Text(s)

Biggam, J. (2015). *Succeeding with your Master's Dissertation : A Step-by-step Handbook* (Third ed., Open UP study skills). Maidenhead: Open University Press.

6. Recommended Readings

Bui, Y. (2014). *How to Write a Master's Thesis* (2nd ed.). Los Angeles : SAGE.

Cryer, P. (2006). *The research student's guide to success* (3rd ed.). Maidenhead: Open University Press.

Evans, D. (2006). *Your Master's thesis*. Abergele, Wales: Studymates.

McMillan, K., & Weyers, J. (2011). *How to Write Dissertations and Project Reports* (2nd ed., Smarter study skills). Harlow: Pearson Education.

Murray, R. (2017). *How to Write a Thesis* (Fourth ed., Open UP study skills). London, UK: Open University Press/McGraw-Hill Education.

7. Related Web Resources

Guide to Writing a Master's Thesis: Effective Ways to Manage a Culminating Project

http://graduate-schools.suite101.com/article.cfm/writing_a_thesis

Thesis Writing Resources

http://www.sparrowpapers.com/resources/thesis_writing_resources/

Writing and Presenting your Thesis or Dissertation

<http://www.learnerassociates.net/dissthes/>

Writing a Master's Thesis

<http://www2.imm.dtu.dk/~jab/MastersThesisAdvice.pdf>

8. Related Journals

Applied Environmental Education and Communication

Australian Journal of Environmental Education

Canadian Journal of Environmental Education

Environment, Development and Sustainability

Environmental Education Research

Ethics and the Environment

International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education

International NGO Journal

Journal of Environmental Education

Journal of Sustainability Education

Journal of Sustainable Development

Journal of Teacher Education for Sustainability

Sustainability

Sustainability: The Journal of Record

South African Journal of Environmental Education

The Journal of Environment & Development

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

Appendix

Programme Title : Master of Arts in Education for Sustainability
Course Title : Thesis Writing and Research Thesis Project on EfS
Course Code : SES6026
Offering Unit : Science and Environmental Studies
Credit Points : 6

Please indicate the delivery mode and the breakdown of the contact hours of this course in the appropriate table below:

Online learning as the primary delivery mode

Range of classroom-based contact hours	Range of hours for online learning	Total No. of-Contact Hours

Directed study mode

Range of classroom-based contact hours	Range of guided independent learning hours	Total No. of-Contact Hours
48	30	78

Last update: April 2023