

THE EDUCATION UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Course Outline

Part I

Programme Title	: Master of Arts in Child and Family Education One-year Full-time/Two-year Part-time
Programme QF Level	: 6
Course Title	: Thesis
<i>(Maximum length including space: English – 100 characters; Chinese – 30 characters)</i>	
Course Code	: ECE6181
Department	: Early Childhood Education
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

The Thesis course is a two-semester course that integrates reading, research and writing. It offers students an enriching opportunity to develop a well-defined thesis question related to a topic on child and family education, formulate and carry out an independent research project with originality, and produce a thesis paper. The thesis must demonstrate substantial knowledge, innovative thinking, analytical and problem-solving skills. Students will work independently under guidance of a thesis supervisor.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

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

- CILO₁ Interpret theories and apply knowledge and research techniques in a chosen area
- CILO₂ Carry out independent research with suitable methodology
- CILO₃ Discover, identify and analyse various aspects of a topic, review and synthesise knowledge, make professional judgments and reasoned arguments
- CILO₄ Interpret data, draw logical conclusions from them, and give recommendations where appropriate
- CILO₅ Consolidate and articulate research experience effectively

3. Content, CILOs and Teaching & Learning Activities

Course Content	CILOs	Suggested Teaching & Learning Activities
Introduction and orientation to the course <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ research and thesis guidelines ➤ research ethics 	CILO ₁₋₃	lecture, discussion
Preparation of thesis proposal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ definition of research question ➤ literature review ➤ design of theoretical framework, research methods and plan 	CILO ₁₋₃	individual consultation
Research process	CILO ₁₋₅	sampling data collection
Thesis writing	CILO ₁₋₅	individual consultation

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ data analysis and interpretation ➤ determining conclusions, recommendations, significance, implications, etc. 		
Presentation of thesis	<i>CILO₁₋₅</i>	seminar

4. Assessment

Assessment Tasks	Weighting (%)	CILO
(a) Thesis proposal A proposal of 1,000 words which specifies the thesis question, literature review, theoretical framework, research design and intended analysis.	20%	<i>CILO₁₋₅</i>
(b) Thesis presentation	20%	<i>CILO₁₋₅</i>
(c) Thesis An individual written report of 8,000-10,000 words to consolidate and summarize the research question, objectives, content, methodology, significance, results/findings, conclusion and self-reflection.	60%	<i>CILO₁₋₅</i>

5. Required Text(s)

Nil

6. Recommended Readings

Booth, W., Colomb, G. G., Williams, J. M., Bizup, J., & Fitzgerald, W. T. (2016). *The craft of research* (4th ed.). The University of Chicago Press.

Bui, Y. N. (2013). *How to write a master's thesis* (2nd ed.). Sage.

Greenstein, T. N., & Davis, S. N. (2019). *Methods of research on human development and families*. Sage.

Joyner, R. L., Rouse, W. A., & Glatthorn, A. A. (2018). *Writing the winning thesis or dissertation: A step-by-step guide*. Corwin Press.

Lahman, M. K. (2017). *Ethics in social science research: Becoming culturally responsive*. Sage Publications.

Oliver, P. (2014). *Writing your thesis* (3rd ed.). Sage.

Paltridge, B., & Starfield, S. (2019). *Thesis and dissertation writing in a second language: A handbook for students and their supervisors* (2nd ed.). Outledge.

Roberts-Holmes, G. (2014). *Doing your early years research project: A step-by-step guide* (3rd ed.). Sage.

7. Related Web Resources

Nil

8. Related Journals

Nil

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

TPg Courses with other Study Modes

Programme Title : Master of Arts in Child and Family Education
 (One-year Full-time/Two-year Part-time)
Course Title : Thesis
Course Code : ECE6181
Offering Unit : Department of Early Childhood Education
Credit Points : 6

Delivery mode:

Online learning as the primary delivery mode

Range of classroom-based contact hours (0-15)	Range of hours for online learning (24-39)	Total No. of Contact Hours

Directed study mode

Range of classroom-based contact hours (8-30)	Range of guided independent learning hours (48-70)	Total No. of Contact Hours
8	70	78