

THE EDUCATION UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Course Outline

Part I

Programme Title	: Bachelor of Social Sciences (Honours) in Global and Environmental Studies
Programme QF Level	: 5
Course Title	: Honours Project – Phase I
Course Code	: SSC4245
Department	: Social Sciences
Credit Points	: 3
Contact Hours	: 39
Pre-requisite(s)	: Nil
Medium of Instruction	: EMI
Course Level	: 4

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 is designed to expose students to essential skills for conducting social science research. It will introduce to students key research methods and methodologies used in the social sciences, techniques in formulating research questions, and practical advices in developing successful research proposals. Research workshops will be conducted to help students identify research gaps through literature review and understand the strengths and limitations of various research methods adopted in different research contexts.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

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

- CILO₁ understand the basic principles (including ethics) and the various qualitative and quantitative techniques used in conducting research.
- CILO₂ comprehend and critically evaluate the methodologies of research publications relating to global and environmental studies.
- CILO₃ identify and pursue a topic/issue of interest arising from the Major.

3. Content, CILOs & Teaching & Learning Activities

Course Content	CILOs	Suggested Teaching & Learning Activities
Phase I <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of quantitative and qualitative research approaches • Choosing a topic and drafting research questions • Literature searching and review • Research design • Data collection • Research ethics • Qualitative and quantitative data analysis • Case studies of qualitative and quantitative research • Research article analysis 	CILO _{1, 2, 3}	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lectures building on assigned readings • Guest lectures describing the research process behind pieces of qualitative and quantitative research • Individual/group activities for students to apply course topics to their own potential research topic

4. Assessment

Assessment Tasks	Weighting (%)	CILOs
a. In-class exercises	25%	CILO _{1,2, 3} <i>Demonstrates understanding of the principles and techniques of research</i>
b. Short quiz to test students' knowledge covered in this course	25%	
c. A 2000-word project proposal which includes the statement of the problem, the design of the research and a review of literature	50%	

5. Required Text(s)

- Fairbrother, G. P. (2007). *Quantitative and Qualitative Approaches to Comparative Education*. In M. Bray, B. Adamson, & M. Mason (Eds.), *Comparative Education Research: Approaches and methods* (39-62). Hong Kong: The University of Hong Kong.
- Guthrie, G. (2010). *Basic Research Methods: An Entry to Social Science Research*. New Delhi: Sage Publications. This is an electronic book accessible from <http://library.ied.edu.hk/record=b1945962~S5>
- May, T. (2011). *Social Research Issues, Methods and Process*. Maidenhead, UK: McGraw-Hill/Open University Press. This is an electronic book accessible from <http://library.ied.edu.hk/record=b1873015~S5>
- Smith, K. (2009). *Doing your Undergraduate Social Science Dissertation*. London: Routledge. This is an electronic book accessible from <http://library.ied.edu.hk/record=b1781821~S5>
- Walliman, N.S.R. (2011). *Research Methods: The Basics*. New York: Routledge. This is an electronic book accessible from <http://library.ied.edu.hk/record=b1945965~S5>

6. Recommended Readings

- Hancke, B. (2009). *Intelligent Research Design: A Guide for Beginning Researchers in the Social Sciences*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Sarantakos, S. (2005). *Social Research (3rd Edition)*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Sprinz, D.F. & Wolinsky-Nahmias, Y. (Eds.). (2004). *Models, Numbers and Cases: Methods for Studying International Relations*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press.
- Staines, G.M., Johnson, K, and Bonacci, M. (2008). *Social Sciences Research: Research, Writing, and Presentation Strategies for Students*. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press.
- Thomas, D.R. and Hodges, I.D. (2010). *Designing and Managing Your Research Project: Core Skills for Social and Health Research*. Los Angeles: Sage.
- White, P. (2009). *Developing Research Questions: A Guide for Social Scientists*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

7. Related Web Resources

- Internet for Social Research Methods
<http://www.vts.intute.ac.uk/tutorial/socialresearchmethods/>
- Research Methods Knowledge Base: Road Map
<http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/kb/kbroad.php>

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

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