Course Outline

Part I

Programme Title : Master of Social Sciences in Global Hong Kong Studies  
Programme QF Level : 6  
Course Title : Research Methods in Global Hong Kong Studies  
Course Code : SSC6266  
Department : Social Sciences  
Credit Points : 3  
Contact Hours : 39  
Pre-requisite(s) : Nil  
Medium of Instruction : English  
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 provides an introduction to research methodology in Global Hong Kong Studies with an aim to equip students with an appropriate understanding of concepts, tools and methods to conduct research projects of their own. The course will offer students solid training in the investigative techniques required in conducting empirical inquiries in Global Hong Kong Studies. The course will cover the essential knowledge and techniques at various stages of conducting a research study, including adopting appropriate methods of collecting and analyzing and presenting data. The quantitative and qualitative approaches and their strengths and shortcomings will be discussed. Students will also have a better understanding of the empirical literature and be able to critically evaluate the quality of evidence presented in the empirical literature.

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

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

- **CILO1** demonstrate an understanding of the basic principles of research methods in Global Hong Kong studies, both qualitative and quantitative;
- **CILO2** evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of different methods and data sources;
- **CILO3** identify and pursue a research topic of interest, relevance and importance;
- **CILO4** design a proper research by selecting appropriate methods for the collection and analysis of data;
- **CILO5** collect and analyze data of their own to make evidence-based arguments

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Content</th>
<th>CILOs</th>
<th>Suggested Teaching &amp; Learning Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fundamental elements in research: the value of conducting and understanding research, the nature of research</td>
<td>CILO1,3</td>
<td>Lectures, Workshops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approaches to research: such as quantitative, qualitative, mixed-methods research</td>
<td>CILO1-2,4</td>
<td>Lectures, Workshops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to the research process, basic concepts on the procedures, designs and methods used in the various types of research; methods of data analysis and presentation; concepts of validity and reliability</td>
<td>CILO1-5</td>
<td>Lectures, case studies, presentations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethical considerations in research</td>
<td>CILO1,3</td>
<td>Lectures, Workshops</td>
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</tbody>
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4. **Assessment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Tasks</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
<th>CILO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(a) Exercises and class participation</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>CILO1-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Presentation</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>CILO3-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c) A individual research proposal on a topic set by the students (3,000 words)</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>CILO1-5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. **Required Text(s)**

   For the whole course

   For qualitative sessions

   For quantitative sessions

6. **Recommended Readings**


   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.


7. **Related Web Resources**

Hong Kong Stories: Social Issues: [http://jmsc.hku.hk/hkstories/content/section/8/71/](http://jmsc.hku.hk/hkstories/content/section/8/71/)


Hong Kong Oral History Archives: [http://www.sociodep.hku.hk/oralhistory/](http://www.sociodep.hku.hk/oralhistory/)


Public Opinion Programme, University of Hong Kong: [http://hkupop.hku.hk/chinese/](http://hkupop.hku.hk/chinese/)

Internet Modern History Sourcebook: [http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/modsbook.asp](http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/modsbook.asp)

Cambridge Modern History: [http://www.cambridge.org/uk/history/cambridgehistories/](http://www.cambridge.org/uk/history/cambridgehistories/)

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](https://www.eduhk.hk/re/modules/downloads/visit.php?cid=9&lid=89)). Students should familiarize themselves with the Policy.

10. Others

Nil

*Updated September 2019*