

THE EDUCATION UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Course Outline

Part I

Programme Title	: Master of International Relations and Development
Programme QF Level	: 6
Course Title	: Thesis Writing and Research Thesis on International Development
Course Code	: SSC6289
Department	: Department of Social Sciences and Policy Studies
Credit Points	: 6
Contact Hours	: 39
Pre-requisite(s)	: Nil
Medium of Instruction	: EMI
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 Sub-degree, Undergraduate, Taught Postgraduate, Professional Doctorate 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 project requires students to complete their research theses based on their proposals developed in Semester One. The topics should be relevant to the major themes and issues related to the development studies of selected a country/ countries. Students are expected to seek advice on the selection of thesis topics with their respective supervisors and to get approvals from their supervisors before working on their theses.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILO_s)

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

- CILO₁* : Understand the major conventions and practical issues of academic writing essential for the successful completion of a Master's thesis in the field of International Development.
- CILO₂* : Demonstrate abilities to form researchable thesis topic, to do a good literature review, to select appropriate methodological tools, and to follow logical structure and style 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 review, and methodologies.
- CILO₄* : Complete the writing of thesis under the supervision of their respective supervisors.

3. Content, CILOs and Teaching & Learning Activities

Course Content	CILOs	Suggested Teaching & Learning Activities
Thesis Introduction	<i>CILO_{1,2,3}</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Lecture ➤ Small Group Discussions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Students commend sample thesis introductions. ➤ Students exchange ideas for their potential thesis topics.
Literature Review	<i>CILO_{1,2,3}</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Lecture ➤ Small Group Discussions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Students commend <i>sample literature review</i>. ii. Students exchange ideas on practical issues raising from the review of literature relevant to their potential research topics.
Research Methods	<i>CILO_{1,2,3}</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Lecture ➤ Small Group Discussions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Students commend <i>sample research methods</i>. ➤ Students exchange ideas about the selection of research methods to address their proposed research questions.
Writing up Findings	<i>CILO_{1,2,3}</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Lecture ➤ Small Group Discussions ➤ Students exchange ideas on how to structure the <i>findings</i> chapter.

Concluding your Thesis	<i>CILO</i> _{1,2,3}	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Lecture ➤ Small Group Discussions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Students commend sample <i>conclusion</i> chapter.
Writing of Thesis	<i>CILO</i> ₄	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Under the supervision of students' respective supervisors

4. Assessment

Assessment Tasks	Weighting (%)	CILOs
(a) Research Proposal Presentation (individual) Students are required to present his/her research proposal on a chosen topic	30%	<i>CILO</i> ₁₋₄
(b) Individual Thesis (6,000 - 8000 words) Students are expected to seek advice on the selection of thesis topics with their respective supervisors and to work on the thesis according to rigorous academic standard.	70%	<i>CILO</i> ₁₋₄

5. Required Text(s)

Biggam, J. (2015). *Succeeding with your Master's dissertation: A Step-by-step handbook*. Maidenhead: Open University Press.

6. Recommended Readings

Balian, E. (1994). *The graduate research guidebook: A practical approach to Doctoral/Masters research*. Lanham [Md.]: University Press of America.

Becker, H. (2010). *Writing for social scientists: How to start and finish your thesis, book, or article*. University of Chicago Press.

Booth, W., Colomb, G., & Williams, J. (2003). *The craft of research*. University of Chicago Press.

Bui, Y. (2009). *How to write a Master's thesis*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

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

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

Fitzpatrick, J. (1998). *Secrets for a successful dissertation*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

McMillan, K. (2007). *How to write dissertations & project reports*. Harlow, England: Pearson/Prentice Hall.

Murray, R. (2006). *How to write a thesis* (2nd ed.). Maidenhead, England: Open University Press.

7. Related Web Resources

Name of the Web Page	Web Link
Writing and Presenting Your Thesis or Dissertation	http://www.learnerassociates.net/dissthes/
Thesis Writing Resources	http://www.sparrowpapers.com/resources/thesis_writing_resources/
Writing a Master's Thesis	http://www2.imm.dtu.dk/~jab/MastersThesisAdvice.pdf

8. Related Journals

Development and Change
Global Social Policy
Journal of Contemporary Asia
Journal of Development Economics
Modern China
Population and Development Review
Social Development
The Developing Economies
The China Quarterly
World Development

9. Academic Honesty

The University upholds the principles of honesty in all areas of academic work. We expect our students to carry out all academic activities honestly and in good faith. Please refer to the *Policy on Academic Honesty, Responsibility and Integrity* (<https://www.eduhk.hk/re/uploads/docs/00000000016336798924548BbN5>). Students should familiarize themselves with the Policy.

10. Others

Nil

Updated as of 29 December 2023