

THE EDUCATION UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Course Outline

Part I

Programme Title	:	Bachelor of Social Sciences (Honours) in Policy Science and Management
Programme QF Level	:	5
Course Title	:	Qualitative Approach to Policy Analysis
Course Code	:	SSC2255
Department	:	Asian and Policy Studies
Credit Points	:	3
Contact Hours	:	39
Pre-requisite(s)	:	Nil
Medium of Instruction	:	EMI
Course Level	:	2

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 objective of this course is to provide students with the knowledge and skills required to understand and conduct policy evaluation. Policy evaluation is central in helping to decide whether to expand, modify or terminate a program or policy. The focus of the course is on rigorous qualitative evaluation tools. The course will introduce students to qualitative tools such as case study techniques, the five “E” approach (Effectiveness, Efficiency, Ethical considerations, Evaluations of alternatives, Establishment of recommendations for positive change), evidence based models, as well as other qualitative evaluative research methodologies.

These qualitative methods will be taught using concrete case studies and dataset that will allow students to identify the strengths and weakness of these methods and learn how to apply them to a policy problem of their choice.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

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

- CILO₁ Use appropriate research tools to make data-driven policy choice and evaluation;
- CILO₂ Apply systematic research methods to address novel problems and produce quality research report; and
- CILO₃ Evaluate the ethical implications of different research methods in policy analysis.

3. Content, CILOs and Teaching & Learning Activities

Course Content	CILOs	Suggested Teaching & Learning Activities
Principle and practice of policy evaluation	CILO ₁₋₃	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lectures: Presentation and discussion of the theories, methods and practices of policy evaluation and qualitative social research methods. • Tutorials: Case studies • Student presentations: Design and present a research plan on policy evaluation • Web and library search • Reading lecture notes and key references.
Approaches to social research methodology	CILO ₁₋₃	
Methods of qualitative research	CILO ₁₋₃	
Ethical consideration in social research	CILO ₁₋₃	

4. Assessment

Assessment Tasks	Weighting (%)	CILOs
(a) Class Discussion and Participation: Students are expected to read relevant readings before s/he attends the tutorials and must participate actively in the discussion. Students’ engagement and participation are evaluated accordingly.	20%	CILO ₁₋₃
(b) Relative Journal:	40%	CILO ₁₋₃

Students will be assigned to read an academic article and read critically how the article is written and argued. Students should write an essay (1,500 – 2,000 words) to reflect on how the methodology has been used in the recommended article.		
(c) Group Presentation: The class will be separated into several groups. Students are expected to formulate a research question and develop sound research methods learnt from the lectures. After the presentation, students are expected to submit individual reflective essay (200 words) to report the entire learning experience in the group project (self-evaluation of individual contribution to the group project should be included).	40%	<i>CILO</i> ₁₋₃

5. Required Text(s)

Nil

6. Recommended Readings

Bardach, E. (2005). *A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis*. Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly Press.

Berg, B.L. (2006). *Qualitative Research Methods for the Social Sciences*. Boston: Pearson.

Dunn, W.N. (2008). *Public Policy Analysis: An Introduction*. Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Pearson Prentice Hall.

Engeli, I. and Allison, C.R. (2014). *Comparative Policy Studies: Conceptual and Methodological Challenges*. New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan.

Fischer, F., Miller, G.J. and Sidney, M.S. (2005). *Handbook of Public Policy Analysis: Theory, Politics, and Methods*. Boca Raton, FL: Taylor & Francis

Fowler, F. J. (2014). *Survey Research Methods*. Los Angeles: Sage Publications.

George, A. and Bennet, A. (2005). *Case Studies and Theory Development in Social Sciences*. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press.

King, G., Keohane, R.O. and Verba, S. (1994). *Designing Social Inquiry: scientific inference in qualitative research*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press.

Kraft, M.E. and Furlong, S.R. (2004). *Public Policy: Politics, Analysis, and Alternatives*. Thousand Oaks, California: CQ Press.

Lipsey, M. and Wilson, D. (2001). *Practical Meta-Analysis*. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage Publications.

Marshall, C. and Rossman, G.B. (2016). *Designing Qualitative Research*. Thousand Oaks, California: Sage Publications

Rathbun, B.C. (2008). "Interviewing and Qualitative Methods: Pragmatism and Practicalities", in J. M. Box-Steffensmeier, H. E. Brady and D. Collier (eds). *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*. Oxford; Hong Kong: Oxford University Press.

Singleton, R.A. and Straits, B.C. (2010). *Approaches to Social Research*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Strauss, A. and Corbin, J. (1990). *Basics of Qualitative Research*. Newbury Park, Calif.: Sage Publications.

Warren, C. and Karner, T. (2010). *Discovering Qualitative Methods*. New York: Oxford University Press

Weiss, R. (1994). *Learning from Strangers: The Art and Method of Qualitative Interview Studies*. New York: Free Press.

Yin, R. (2014). *Case Study Research: Design and Methods*. Los Angeles: Sage Publications.

7. Related Web Resources

Nil.

8. Related Journals

Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis

Journal of Public Policy

Public Policy and Administration

Research Methods in Public Policy

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.