

**City University of Hong Kong
Course Syllabus**

**offered by Department of Asian and International Studies
with effect from Semester A 2017/18**

Part I Course Overview

Course Title:	Thesis
Course Code:	AIS6013
Course Duration:	Two semester (Semester B and Summer Term) *
Credit Units:	6
Level:	P6
Medium of Instruction:	English
Medium of Assessment:	English
Prerequisites: (Course Code and Title)	AIS5026 Research Design for the Social Sciences (with pre-requisite, effective 2011-12)
Precursors: (Course Code and Title)	N/A
Equivalent Courses: (Course Code and Title)	N/A
Exclusive Courses: (Course Code and Title)	N/A

* This is a dissertation-type course as defined in City University's Academic Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Degrees (AR12.4). The maximum duration of the course is 3 semesters plus a summer term, after which no further extension can be permitted. As set out in City University's Academic Regulations, dissertation-type courses cannot be repeated.

Part II Course Details

1. Abstract

This course aims to guide students in the planning, implementation and write-up of a substantial independent research project, exploring one of the themes from their studies of Asian and International issues (chosen by the student in consultation with the supervisor). Before undertaking this course students must have first completed AIS5026 Research Design for the Social Sciences, with a minimum grade of B+. The Master's thesis is an opportunity for students to draw on new knowledge gained from MA coursework, previous knowledge derived from undergraduate studies and design a project that entails original discovery and innovation.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

(CILOs state what the student is expected to be able to do at the end of the course according to a given standard of performance.)

No.	CILOs	Weighting (if applicable)	Discovery-enriched curriculum related learning outcomes (please tick where appropriate)		
			A1	A2	A3
1.	formulate a research plan		√	√	√
2.	summarize results and conclusions from previous studies		√	√	√
3.	present analysis and data or findings effectively		√	√	√
		100%			

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to self-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

3. Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)

(TLAs designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs.)

TLA	Brief Description	CILO No.						Hours/week (if applicable)
		1	2	3				
1	Individual consultations with the supervisor; independent planning, analysis, research, and elaboration of findings by the student, with feedback from the supervisor	√	√	√				
2	Reading and research		√					
3	Thesis writing	√	√	√				

4. Assessment Tasks/Activities (ATs)

(ATs are designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs.)

Assessment Tasks/Activities	CILO No.						Weighting	Remarks
	1	2	3					
Continuous Assessment: 100 %								
Thesis (10-12,000 words)	√	√	√				100%	
Examination: Nil % (duration: N/A, if applicable)								
							100%	

5. Assessment Rubrics

(Grading of student achievements is based on student performance in assessment tasks/activities with the following rubrics.)

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B, B-)	Fair (C+, C, C-)	Marginal (D)	Failure (F)
1. Attendance and class discussions of readings	Active participation in class discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Superior understanding of a major issue or problem of infrastructure development ◦ Clear ability of independent thinking and critical analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Good understanding of a major issue or problem of infrastructure development ◦ Evidence of some good Clear ability of independent thinking and critical analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Sufficient understanding of a major issue or problem of infrastructure development ◦ Some attempts at analytical thinking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Some knowledge of a major issue or problem of infrastructure development ◦ Little evidence of analysis of relevant concepts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Little evidence of knowledge of a major issue or problem of infrastructure development
2. Analytical notes		Superior in readings, class discussions and independent research students will examine and write up to five short pieces on the problematic and/or current debates on contentious or important issues.	Good in readings, class discussions and independent research students will examine and write up to five short pieces on the problematic and/or current debates on contentious or important issues.	Sufficient in readings, class discussions and independent research students will examine and write up to five short pieces on the problematic and/or current debates on contentious or important issues.	Some knowledge in readings, class discussions and independent research students will examine and write up to five short pieces on the problematic and/or current debates on contentious or important issues.	Poor in readings, class discussions and independent research students will examine and write up to five short pieces on the problematic and/or current debates on contentious or important issues.

Part III Other Information (more details can be provided separately in the teaching plan)

1. Keyword Syllabus

(An indication of the key topics of the course.)

Research methods, literature review, analysis, argumentation, thesis

After initial discussion of the student's preferred topic with the supervisor, the student will be required to prepare a substantial proposal as a basis for further discussion. The course will focus on the relevant analytical frameworks, on gathering of relevant data or comparable case studies, analysis of the variables or context, implications, and effective presentation. Students and supervisors will meet weekly or biweekly to discuss progress, issues, and problems.

2. Reading List

2.1 Compulsory Readings

(Compulsory readings can include books, book chapters, or journal/magazine articles. There are also collections of e-books, e-journals available from the CityU Library.)

Readings depend on the topic and will be decided in consultation with the supervisor. Students will prepare for the project by compiling a detailed and annotated list of articles, books, films, and web-based items, to provide the material needed for the thesis. Work on this list will be discussed regularly with the supervisor.

2.2 Additional Readings

(Additional references for students to learn to expand their knowledge about the subject.)

Nil