

**City University of Hong Kong
Course Syllabus**

**offered Department of Asian and International Studies
with effect from Semester A 2020/21**

Part I Course Overview

Course Title:	Directed Research Project
Course Code:	AIS 4060
Course Duration:	Two semesters
Credit Units:	6
Level:	B4
Proposed Area: <i>(for GE courses only)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Arts and Humanities <input type="checkbox"/> Study of Societies, Social and Business Organisations <input type="checkbox"/> Science and Technology
Medium of Instruction:	English
Medium of Assessment:	English
Prerequisites: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	Four courses from: AIS2030, AIS2040, AIS2012, AIS3031, AIS3032, AIS3033, AIS3121, AIS3126, AIS3123, AIS4042, and a 3.0 CGPA
Precursors: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	Nil
Equivalent Courses: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	AIS4051 Directed Research Project
Exclusive Courses: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	Nil

Part II Course Details

1. Abstract

This is a 6-credit unit course which aims at guiding students to plan, design and accomplish an individual research project over the course of two semesters. Under close supervision of an AIS faculty member, students will work independently on identifying a research puzzle, defining research questions and collecting data to answer these questions and/or solve the puzzle. The course will enhance students' intellectual capacity in conducting independent research, critically reviewing the literature, and identifying appropriate methods for the investigation of social issues, which is a crucial knowledge-discovering process. Enrolment is limited to students with a 3.0 GPA or higher.

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	Learn the skills for planning a substantial research project		√	√	
2	Produce a written research proposal (Semester A)			√	√
3	Implement a research plan using appropriate methods				√
4	Apply multi-disciplinary critical and innovative thinking to solve research problems		√	√	
5	Present proposals and research results effectively				√
6	Produce a well-structured, evidence-based final report (Semester B)				√
		100%			

* If weighting is assigned to CILOs, they should add up to 100%.

Please specify the alignment of CILOs to the Gateway Education Programme Intended Learning outcomes (PILOs) in Section A of Annex.

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	4	5	6	
	Individual consultations with supervisor	√	√	√	√	√	√	
	Reading and Research	√	√	√	√	√		
	Preparation and presentation of research proposal		√	√	√	√		
	Presentation of research results and write up report			√	√	√	√	

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	4	5	6		
Continuous Assessment: <u>100</u> %								
Written project proposal		√	√	√	√		30%	Semester A
Project report & oral presentation		√	√	√	√	√	70%	Semester B
Examination: _____% (duration: _____, if applicable)								
* The weightings should add up to 100%.							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. Written project proposal	Demonstrate understanding of the theories and cases discussed in the course	Excellent understanding of the theories and examples discussed in the lectures and tutorials	Good understanding of the theories and examples discussed in the lectures and tutorials	Basic understanding of the theories and examples discussed in the lectures and tutorials	Weak understanding of the theories and examples discussed in the lectures and tutorials	Poor understanding of the theories and examples discussed in the lectures and tutorials
2. Project report & oral Presentation	Show understanding about the cases with good presentation skills and organization	Excellent understanding about the cases with good presentation skills and organization	Good understanding about the cases with appropriate presentation skills and organization	Basic understanding about the cases and show effort in presentation skills and organization	Weak understanding about the cases and show effort in presentation skills and organization	Poor understanding about the cases and show little effort in presentation skills and organization

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.)

Social research; directed research; research proposal; research design; field research; quantitative and qualitative methods; policy relevance of results; primary and secondary data; document analysis; presentation of results; dissemination of research; ethics of research.

Further information:

A *Project Guide*, to be distributed upon enrolment, provides the necessary guidelines on format and presentation. Substantive readings depend on the topic, and are arranged or assigned, discussed, and integrated into the proposal and final project as discussed with the supervisor. Students typically read intensively for most of Semester A while planning, designing and developing the project, and read selectively for further comparison and investigation, as well data collection, analysis and final writing in Semester B. At the end of Semester A, a research *proposal* must be submitted to the supervisor. At the end of Semester B, the submission of the final research project (or *thesis*) goes along with an oral presentation.

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.)

- Kirshner, Jonathan, 1996. "Alfred Hitchcock and the Art of Research", *PS: Political Science and Politics* 29(3): 511-513.

2.2 Additional Readings

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

- Booth, Wayne C., Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams, Joseph Bizup and William T. Fitzgerald, 2016. *The Craft of Research* (4th ed.), Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Bryman, Alan, 2012. *Social Research Methods* (4th ed.), Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Ragin, Charles C. and Lisa M. Amoroso, 2019. *Constructing Social Research* (3rd ed.), Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.