

**City University of Hong Kong
Course Syllabus**

**offered by Department of Accountancy
with effect from Semester A 2021/2022**

Part I Course Overview

Course Title: Living with the Unexpected and Unknown in Modern Society

Course Code: GE1204

Course Duration: 1 semester

Credit Units: 3 credits

Level: B1

Arts and Humanities

Proposed Area:
(for GE courses only)

Study of Societies, Social and Business Organisations

Science and Technology

Medium of Instruction: English

Medium of Assessment: English

Prerequisites:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Precursors:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Equivalent Courses:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Exclusive Courses:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Part II Course Details

1. Abstract

(A 150-word description about the course)

From a practical utilitarian perspective, this course aims to equip students with an understanding of risks faced in modern society emanating from the interrelationship among humans, and between humans and their natural (physical), biological, technological, behavioral and financial environments. It seeks to develop students' ability to assess risk from multiple perspectives including economics, sociology, psychology, engineering, law, political science, and geography in a global context. Building on this understanding of risk, the course introduces students to the concept and process of risk management, which helps develop their ability to deal with risks both known and unknown. From a theoretical perspective, the course introduces students to various theoretical positions in risk literature and helps develop their ability to engage in debates of major risk management doctrines and issues in modern society, both verbally and in written form, with the appropriate supporting reasons and analyses, individually and in a team environment.

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.	Explain the concepts of risk and risk management in modern society from a social science perspective at an individual, Organisational, societal, and global level.		√	√	
2.	Develop basic understanding of quantifying risk using probability theory.		√	√	
3.	Discuss the psychological and behavioural attributes that influence one's subjective perception of risk and derail human's rational behaviour: risk aversion, (Expected Utility theory), loss aversion (Prospect theory), and behavioural biases such as anchoring, endowment effect, sunk cost fallacy etc.		√	√	
4.	Reflect upon risk and risk management strategies in everyday lives, e.g., health (including Pandemic Risk), crime and media; international and global affairs, e.g., terrorism, environment, and international relations to be able to live with the unexpected and unknown in modern society.		√	√	
5.	Describe the risks that modern business face and the risk management tools that can be used to harness those risks.		√	√	
6.	Explain the complexities of and controversies in risk management and that there is no single doctrine which can be applied in all situations.		√	√	
7.	Write structured reports and make oral presentations in		√	√	

a precise and concise manner with appropriate supporting materials, individually and in a team environment.				
	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	7	
1. Interactive Seminar * * DEC TLA element	The lecturer will play a facilitating role which may involve: - briefly lecture on the subject material of the week; students are expected to have completed the assigned weekly readings prior to attending classes; - extensive use of relevant videos and recent news to help explain, explore and apply the course concepts; - design the weekly in-class exercises and questions for group discussions; - moderating class discussions; - encouraging and evaluating student participation, both in-class and in e-platforms.	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	3
2. Weekly in-class exercises and group discussions with mini group presentations at end * * DEC TLA element	- Students will work in groups to lead weekly class discussions and/or debates on materials and topics assigned by the lecturer.	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	1.5 (part of TLA1)
3. Guest Speakers *	- Guest speaker from the teaching staff in CB and/or	√	√	√	√	√	√		1 – 2 (part of

* DEC TLA element	<p>other colleges/ schools will be invited to present special topic of interest in risk management;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Practitioner in industry will be invited as guest speaker to attest the practice of risk management in real life. 									TLA1)
4. Outside regular class hours*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Online Discussion Board will be created for the course; - students are encouraged to engage in further discussions and/or comments outside the classroom; - participation in these activities will count towards the total participation assessment. 	√	√	√	√	√	√			No limit
* DEC TLA element										

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	7		
Continuous Assessment: 60%									
AT1: Individual written report # (from an assignment case) # DEC AT element	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	15%	
AT2: Group Case Presentation# (from an assignment case) # DEC AT element	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	30%	
AT3: Participation including in-class and outside classroom # # DEC AT element	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	15%	
Examination: 40% (duration: 2 hours)									
AT4: Final Examination (open book)	√	√	√	√	√	√		40%	
* The actual selected weightings should add up to 100%.								100%	

Note: Students are required to pass both coursework and examination components to guarantee to pass the course. Failing either component may lead to failure in the course. The passing mark is generally 50.

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: Individual written report	Ability to describe and explain the concepts of risk and risk management; capacity in analysing and synthesizing subject materials; ability in applying and reflecting risk management in everyday lives; ability in writing structured reports and making oral presentations.	High	Significant	Moderate	Basic	Below marginal levels
2: Group presentation		High	Significant	Moderate	Basic	Below marginal levels
3: Participation including in-class and outside classroom		High	Significant	Moderate	Basic	Below marginal levels
4: Final Examination (open book)		High	Significant	Moderate	Basic	Below marginal levels

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.)

1. Understanding and Categorizing Risks in modern Society
2. Theoretical positions in Risk Literature
3. Risk management process – Living with the unexpected and unknown
4. Individual Risk (Health)
5. Society Risk (Social Welfare, Pandemic)
6. Global Risk (Risk of Terrorism, Environmental Risk)
7. Risks faced by Business
8. Risk Management Tools
9. Debates in Risk Management

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.)

1.	<p>(CityU Publishing discontinued course pack production service in Summer 2016).</p> <p>Book chapter from the following two text books will be assigned as Weekly readings.</p> <p>1-Risk and Society, David Denney, London; Thousand Oaks, Calif.: SAGE, 2005.</p> <p>2- Smart Risk, Andrew Holmes, Capstone (Wiley), 2004.</p> <p>Specific chapters from the following book (to be uploaded on Canvas) would be assigned for one of the sessions.</p> <p>Accident and Design: Contemporary Debates in Risk Management, Christopher Hood & David K.C. Jones, London; Bristol, Pa.: UCL Press, 1996.</p>
2.	<p>In-class Handouts.</p>

2.2 Additional Readings

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

1.	Against The Gods: The Remarkable Story of Risk, Peter L. Bernstein, New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1996.
2.	How Safe is Safe Enough?: Leadership, Safety, and Risk Management, Gregory Alston, Aldershot, Hampshire ; Burlington, VT : Ashgate, 2003.
3.	Mastering Risk, Volume 1: Concepts, James Pickford, Harlow: Financial Times Prentice Hall, 2001.

A. Please specify the Gateway Education Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (PILOs) that the course is aligned to and relate them to the CILOs stated in Part II, Section 2 of this form:

GE PILO	Please indicate which CILO(s) is/are related to this PILO, if any (can be more than one CILOs in each PILO)
PILO 1: Demonstrate the capacity for self-directed learning	CILOs 1,2,3,4,5,6,7
PILO 2: Explain the basic methodologies and techniques of inquiry of the arts and humanities, social sciences, business, and science and technology	CILO 1
PILO 3: Demonstrate critical thinking skills	CILOs 4 and 6
PILO 4: Interpret information and numerical data	CILO 2
PILO 5: Produce structured, well-organised and fluent text	CILO 7
PILO 6: Demonstrate effective oral communication skills	CILO 7
PILO 7: Demonstrate an ability to work effectively in a team	CILO 7
PILO 8: Recognise important characteristics of their own culture(s) and at least one other culture, and their impact on global issues	CILO 4
PILO 9: Value ethical and socially responsible actions	
PILO 10: Demonstrate the attitude and/or ability to accomplish discovery and/or innovation	CILOs 4 and 7

GE course leaders should cover the mandatory PILOs for the GE area (Area 1: Arts and Humanities; Area 2: Study of Societies, Social and Business Organisations; Area 3: Science and Technology) for which they have classified their course; for quality assurance purposes, they are advised to carefully consider if it is beneficial to claim any coverage of additional PILOs. General advice would be to restrict PILOs to only the essential ones. (Please refer to the curricular mapping of GE programme: http://www.cityu.edu.hk/edge/ge/faculty/curricular_mapping.htm.)

B. Please select an assessment task for collecting evidence of student achievement for quality assurance purposes. Please retain at least one sample of student achievement across a period of three years.

Selected Assessment Task
Individual written report.