

City University of Hong Kong

**Information on a Course
offered by School of Creative Media
with effect from Semester A in 2012 / 2013**

Part I

Course Title: Independent Study I

Course Code: SM5315

Course Duration: One semester (13 weeks)

Credit Units: 3

Level: P5

Medium of Instruction: English

Prerequisites: Nil

Precursors: Nil

Equivalent Courses: Nil

Exclusive Courses: Nil

Part II

1. Course Aims

This course aims to give students the opportunity to explore topics of personal interest in media history, theory, criticism, and practice under the supervision of an academic staff member. Independent study projects provide a means for students to investigate topics that are relevant to their studies but are not covered within the programme's set curriculum. They also allow students to extend their examination of topics introduced other classes.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

No.	CILOs
*1	Describe and apply key concepts and terminology to the analysis of a topic relevant to the field
*2	Conceptualize and create a project of personal interest that is also relevant to the field

*Negotiated Learning Outcome (NLO) explicitly articulating the elements of Discovery oriented learning.

3. Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)

(Indicative of likely activities and tasks designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs. Final details will be provided to students in their first week of attendance in this course)

TLAs	CILO No.
These activities are determined by the nature of the project, and are part of the initial agreement between the student and the project adviser.	CILO 1
Activities normally will involve regular meetings between the student and the adviser.	CILO 2

4. Assessment Tasks/Activities

(Indicative of likely activities and tasks designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs. Final details will be provided to students in their first week of attendance in this course)

Type of Assessment Tasks/Activities	CILO No.	Remarks
The project's end result is determined by the nature of the investigation.	CILO 1	
The project outcome normally takes the form of a substantial written essay, including full citations and bibliography. Under certain circumstances, the outcome may take the form of a script or other creative writing project, or a creative project involving the use of one or more of the media technologies available to SCM students. Some combination of two or more of these submission formats is also possible.	CILO 2	

5. Grading of Student Achievement:

Refer to Grading of Courses in the Academic Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Degrees.

Examination duration: n/a

Percentage of coursework, examination, etc.:

100% coursework

Grading pattern: Standard (A+AA-...F)

Grading is based on performance in assessment tasks / activities

Research-based Project

Students should demonstrate a postgraduate-level ability to undertake independent

research through the application of relevant knowledge and skills, develop coherent and significant research problems, and carry out that research through well-organized argument and analysis.

Letter Grade	Grade Point	Grade Definitions	Description
A+ A A-	4.3 4.0 3.7	Excellent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Excellent grasp of materials, ability to explain key concepts, assumptions, and debates, demonstrating sound knowledge of the field – Rich content, exceptional ability to integrate various resources into primary and secondary levels based on demand; – Design and conduct research which is firmly built on thorough knowledge of existing theoretical frameworks – Evaluative judgments about existing research and demonstrate application of strong critical thinking skills – Strong ability to approach a text or a theme using a variety of theories and analytical tools – Strong organization of research findings with effective organization and procedural clarity at the same time demonstrating the importance of the process – Insightful suggestion of how the research findings may lead to future research
B+ B B-	3.3 3.0 2.7	Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Firm grasp of materials, ability to explain key concepts and assumptions – Adequate content, strong ability to integrate various resources into primary and secondary levels based on demand; – Design and conduct research which is built on thorough knowledge of existing theoretical frameworks – Appropriate judgments about existing research and demonstrate application of critical thinking skills – Ability to approach a text or a theme using a variety of theories and analytical tools
C+ C C-	2.3 2.0 1.7	Adequate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Comprehensive grasp of materials, able to explain key concepts – Adequate content, fair ability to integrate various

			<p>resources into primary and secondary levels based on demand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Design and conduct research which is built on knowledge of theoretical frameworks – Appropriate judgments about existing research – Weak ability to approach a text or a theme using a variety of theories and analytical tools
D	1.0	Marginal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Loose grasp of materials, cannot explain key concepts – Weak content, with primary and secondary levels – Design and conduct research which is appropriate for the research objective – Marginal judgments about existing research – Poor ability to approach a text or a theme using a variety of theories and analytical tools
F	0.0	Failure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Poor grasp of materials – Inadequate content, without primary and secondary levels – Fail to design and conduct research which is appropriate for the research objective – Fail to make reasonable judgments about existing research – Fail to approach a text or a theme using a variety of theories and analytical tools

Note: All A+/A/A- grade assignment should comply with the highest performance of Discovery-oriented learning.

Part III

Keyword Syllabus

There is no set syllabus for an independent study project. Instead, the subject is organized through principles of guided mentoring, one-on-one discussion and instruction, and collaboration between the student and the faculty adviser.

Normally, an independent study project is initiated by the student, who develops an idea for a research topic or project, and then approaches a member of the SCM teaching staff to request that they serve as adviser.

The student and faculty member agree on the terms of the project (i.e., specific topic or theme, work schedule and process, meeting schedule, expected end result), and then consult regularly concerning the project over the course of the semester.

The project's end result is determined by the nature of the investigation. It may consist of a written essay, a script or other creative writing project, or a creative project involving the use of one or more of the media technologies available to SCM students.

The project is expected to be conceived and executed in its entirety over the course of the semester. However, proposals for projects requiring a longer period of time to complete may be considered.

Recommended Reading

Text(s)

To be arranged

Online Resources

To be arranged