

**City University of Hong Kong**

**Information on a Taught Postgraduate Course  
offered by Department of Public Policy  
with effect from Semester A in 2014 / 2015**

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**Part I**

<b>Course Title:</b>	Research Methods for Urban Managers
<b>Course Code:</b>	POL5505
<b>Course Duration:</b>	One semester
<b>Credit Units:</b>	2
<b>Level:</b>	P5
<b>Medium of Instruction:</b>	English
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	None
<b>Precursors:</b>	None
<b>Equivalent Courses:</b>	None
<b>Exclusive Courses:</b>	None

**Part II**

**1. Course Aims**

*This course aims to*

Equip students with advanced knowledge and skills for researching urban management issues. It will explore methods for studying the temporal and spatial, as well as economic, human, and social dimensions of urbanization. The course will offer students with hand-on experiences of developing a research proposal and conducting a small scale research project which analyse an urban policy or an issue pertinent to urban management.

## 2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

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

No.	CILOs	Weighting (if applicable)
1.	Design and operationalize research questions relevant to urban management as well as locate relevant literature on the research topics and to critically judging existing studies.	15%
2.	Compare competing theories, structure both quantitative and qualitative research methods for data collection and attribute their strengths and limitations.	30%
3.	Design a research proposal, selecting and deploying one or more methods for collecting and analyzing data.	40%
4.	Communicate findings of research in both written as well as oral means and to use appropriate tabular and graphic format for presentation.	15%

## 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.)*

CILO No.	TLAs	Hours/week (if applicable)
CILO 2-4	Lectures: to deliver knowledge on theories and techniques on both quantitative and qualitative research methods for data collection and analysis.	2 hours per week
CILO 1-4	Class discussion and debate: An opportunity for students to clarify and evaluate research questions, key concepts and operationalization through exchange and interaction with others; an exercise for students to listen to and appreciate alternative views and arguments.	
CILO 1-4	Group presentation and discussion: Offers students a chance to work in a team, design and execute a small research project related to environmental governance.	
CILO 1-2	Quizzes: evaluate the learning progress of students on the conceptualization and operationalization of research questions and basic knowledge of data collection techniques.	
CILO 2	Data analysis workshop: Offers students hands on experiences on working with dataset and formulate statistical analysis reports.	4 hours in total
CILO 1-4	Written report: Document the processes of conducting the research and communicate the findings.	

#### 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.)

CILO No.	Short Quizzes	Discussion/Tutorial Presentation	Data Analysis Assignment	Written Report (3,000-3,500 words)	Total
CILO 1	5%	10%			15%
CILO 2	10%	10%	10%		30%
CILO 3		10%		30%	40%
CILO 4			5%	10%	15%
	15%	30%	15%	40%	

#### 5. Grading of Student Achievement: Refer to Grading of Courses in the Academic Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Degrees.

Letter Grade	Grading criteria in relation to CILOs
A+ A A-	Good grasp of knowledge of both the quantitative and qualitative methods for data collection and analysis. Well demonstrated capacity in developing a scientific and feasible research proposal as well as carrying out the study. Clear and effective communication of the findings to a broader audience.
B+ B B-	Fair grasp of knowledge of both the quantitative and qualitative methods for data collection and analysis. Fairly demonstrated capacity in developing a scientific and feasible research proposal as well as carrying out the study. Fair communication of the findings to a broader audience.
C+ C C-	Some grasp of knowledge of both the quantitative and qualitative methods for data collection and analysis. Some demonstrated capacity in developing a scientific and feasible research proposal as well as carrying out the study. Some communication of the findings to a broader audience.
D	Obviously limited knowledge of both the quantitative and qualitative methods for data collection and analysis. Limited demonstrated capacity in developing a scientific and feasible research proposal as well as carrying out the study. Limited communication of the findings to a broader audience.
F	Sparse knowledge of both the quantitative and qualitative methods for data collection and analysis. Little demonstrated capacity in developing a scientific and feasible research proposal as well as carrying out the study. Little communication of the findings to a broader audience.

All marks and grades are subject to approval by the Assessment Panel.

## Part III

### Keyword Syllabus

The logic of social inquiry; Understanding the complexity temporal and spatial as well as human, economic, and social dimensions of urban management issues; Ethics for social research; Conceptualization and operationalization; Methods for data collection (site selection and sampling, questionnaire design, interviewing and other qualitative methods); Methods for data analysis (descriptive statistics for a single variable, relationship between two or more variables, data visualization tools, content analysis); Appreciation, evaluation and reporting of research on urban management

### Recommended Reading

#### Text(s)

- Babbie, Earl R. 2011. *The basics of social research*. 5th ed. Australia ; Belmont, CA: Wadsworth / Cengage Learning.
- . 2013. *Adventures in social research : data analysis using IBM SPSS statistics*. 8th ed. Thousand Oaks: SAGE.
- Bowerman, Bruce L., Richard T. O'Connell, and Emily Murphree. 2009. *Business statistics in practice*. 5th ed. Boston: McGraw-Hill Irwin.
- Gerring, John. 2012. *Social science methodology : a unified framework*. 2nd ed. Cambridge ; New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Ospina, Sonia M., and Jennifer Dodge. 2005. "It's about Time: Catching Method Up to Meaning--The Usefulness of Narrative Inquiry in Public Administration Research." *Public Administration Review* no. 65 (2):143-157.
- Schutt, Russell K. 2012. *Investigating the social world : the process and practice of research*. 7th ed. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage Publications.
- Yin, Robert K. 2009. *Case study research : design and methods*. 4th ed. Los Angeles, Calif.: Sage Publications.

### Online Resources