

**City University of Hong Kong**

**Information on a Course  
offered by Department of Applied Social Sciences  
with effect from Semester A in 2012/2013**

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**Part I**

Course Title:	Integrative Project
Course Code:	SS6591
Course Duration:	Two semesters
No. of Credit Units:	6
Level:	P6
Medium of Instruction:	English
Medium of Assessment:	English
Prerequisites:	SS5421 Qualitative Research Methods <i>or its equivalent</i> ; and SS5425 Quantitative Research Methods <i>or its equivalent</i>
Precursors:	Nil
Equivalent Courses:	Nil
Exclusive Courses:	Nil

**Part II**

**Course Aims:**

This course aims to offer students an opportunity to organize sociological theories, practice and demonstrate research skills in inquiring an issue concerning Applied Sociology.

**Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)**

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

No.	CILOs	Weighting
1.	apply sociological theories and research methods to conduct an independent research project;	25%
2.	analyze and interpret the knowledge discovered	25%

	effectively;	
3.	describe and present findings systematically;	20%
4.	devise innovative evidence-based recommendations to the issues under investigation; and	20%
5.	identify and assess the possible ethical issues in the process of designing and implementing study.	10%

### 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.	TLA1	TLA2	TLA3	Hours / course (if applicable)
CILO 1	√	√	√	
CILO 2	√	√	√	
CILO 3	√	√	√	
CILO 4	√	√	√	
CILO 5	√	√		

#### TLA 1: Research Activities

In the first semester of study, students will work with the supervisor and the practice site supervisor (normally the agency in-charge) to develop a research proposal. This proposal must be approved by the supervisor and the practice site supervisor. Students will then spend approximately five months conducting research and writing the project report. The final draft of the project report is due at the end of the second semester.

The research procedure will involve:

1. students identify and determine, with guidance of supervisor and the agency in-charge, topics for project work in the field of Sociology which is acceptable to the supervisor and the agency in-charge concerned;
2. literature review, development and preparation of an individual study proposal;
3. data gathering and analysis;
4. preparation and presentation of the report in a professionally acceptable manner; and
5. presentation of findings and application to the agency / organization, and / or dissemination of results and proposal to the public.

### TLA 2: Individual Supervision

The supervisor is the primary resource for project supervision. The Supervisor's roles are to:

- arrange consultations with students
- provide guidance and advice during the development of the project
- arrange suitable additional learning experiences for the student and certify their completion of the required hours
- assess and mark project reports

### TLA 3: Presentations

The student is required to present his or her progress at the end of the first semester, and then the findings and recommendations at the end of the second semester. In addition, if required by the agency, the student also needs to present the findings to the agency at the end of the course; or as required by the supervisor, to present the findings to the public through means such as letter to editor.

### **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.	Type of Assessment Tasks/Activities	Weighting	Remarks
CILO 1-5	AT 1: Project Report	80%	
CILO 1-5	AT 2: Presentations	20%	

#### AT 1: Project Report

The assessment will be based on the final project report. The length of the written research paper shall be around 10,000 words.

#### AT 2: Presentations

Students have to make two formal presentations. For the first presentation, students are required to present their project objectives, literature review, theoretical framework and research methodology. For the second presentation, students are required to report their research process, present their research findings and recommendations.

### **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-	Strong evidence of original thinking and discovery in knowledge and/or intervention; good organization, capacity to analyse and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter; evidence of extensive knowledge base.
B+ B B-	Evidence of grasp of subject, some evidence of innovation and discovery, critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of issues; evidence of good familiarity with literature.
C+ C C-	Student who is profiting from the university experience; satisfactory understanding of the subject; ability to suggest some significant findings and / or simple solutions to the issue investigated.
D	Sufficient familiarity with the subject matter and basic capacity to conduct study, to enable the student to progress without repeating the course.
F	Little evidence of familiarity with the subject matter; weakness in research skills, critical and analytic skills; limited or irrelevant use of literature.

## Part III

### 1. Keyword Syllabus:

The Project is to provide a real independent research practice to the students with supervision, on a topic, which they learn how to apply sociological theories, methods, skills and examine their professional orientations and ethics. The focus of the Project will be on an actual problem or issue agreed between the student and the supervisor. The students are required to study and analyze the actual problem, and to generate innovative recommendations. Apart from preparing a report, the students are also required to have formal presentation to other students, or concerned organization, if relevant.

### 2. Recommended Reading:

Becker, H. S. (2007). *Writing for social scientists [electronic resource]: How to start and finish your thesis, book, or article*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.

Denzin, N. K., & Lincoln, Y. S. (Eds.). (2000). *Handbook of qualitative research* (2nd ed). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Emden, J. van, & Becker, L. (2004). *Presentation skills for students*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Grant, A. (1998). *Presentation perfect: How to excel at business presentations, meetings and public speaking* (rev. ed.). London: Industrial Society.

Langton, P. A., & Kammerer, D. A. (2005). *Practicing Sociology in the community: A student's guide*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Piantanida, M., & Noreen, B. G. (1999). *The Qualitative dissertation: A guide for students and faculty*, Thousand Oaks, CA.: Corwin Press.

Straus, R. A. (Ed.). (2002). *Using Sociology: An introduction from the applied and clinical perspectives* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

Van Emden, J., & Becker, L. (2010). *Presentation skills for students*. New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan.