

**City University of Hong Kong
Course Syllabus**

**offered by Department of Information Systems
with effect from Semester A 2017 / 2018**

Part I Course Overview

Course Title:	Dissertation
Course Code:	IS6911
Course Duration:	Two Semesters (26 weeks)
Credit Units:	9
Level:	P6
Medium of Instruction:	English
Medium of Assessment:	English
Prerequisites: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	Nil
Precursors: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	Nil
Equivalent Courses: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	IS6915 Dissertation
Exclusive Courses: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	Nil

Part II Course Details

1. Abstract

The aim of the dissertation is to develop expertise in a chosen subject area directly related to the programme, through the application of knowledge and skills provided by other courses in the programme to a specific information systems problem. In undertaking the dissertation the student should demonstrate a clear grasp of the chosen subject matter, a full understanding of the principles being applied, and the ability to manage and present the dissertation in a coherent and precise manner.

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.	Plan, schedule, monitor and control a substantial piece of research or research and development work	10%	✓	✓	✓
2.	Identify a research-based topic of local interest which is also important in the field of information systems	20%			
3.	Select and critically assess material relevant to the chosen problem area	30%			
4.	Apply some of the methods, tools and techniques developed during the programme to analyse systematically the problem area	30%	✓	✓	✓
5.	Communicate effectively, orally and in writing (in the form of a dissertation), a programme of applied research or research and development work in information systems	10%	✓	✓	✓
		100%			

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	
TLA1: Literature Review	Students conduct supervised reading to deepen their knowledge in the chosen research topic.	✓	✓	✓	✓		
TLA2: Discussion	Students discuss the research framework and subject contents with peer, internal/external supervisors to improve their knowledge of the chosen research topic.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
TLA3: Presentation	Students conduct formal and informal presentations to disseminate their ideas and collect feedback regarding their chosen research topic.		✓	✓	✓	✓	

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		
Continuous Assessment: 100%							
<u>AT1. Presentation</u> Students demonstrate their deep knowledge in the chosen research topic by communicating their findings to the peer and their supervisors.		✓	✓	✓	✓	20%	
<u>AT2. Dissertation #</u> Students communicate the full details of the chosen research topic by developing a comprehensive dissertation.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	80%	
						100%	

The dissertation will have a maximum of 20,000 words of main text. In keeping with the aim of coherent, concise and precise reporting work in excess of 20,000 words will be discouraged and may be penalised. The main text may be supplemented by appendices, bibliography, etc.

The written dissertation will be marked independently by the supervisor and by a second assessor, who will also be a member of academic staff of the department. The two assessors will each mark to a maximum of 40%, giving a total maximum mark of 80% for the written dissertation. Of the remaining 20% mark for the dissertation course, the quality and timeliness of the interim report will account for 10% and continuous assessment by the supervisor will account for 10%.

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)
AT1. Presentation	Ability to plan, schedule, monitor and control a substantial piece of research or research and development work	High	Significant	Moderate	Basic	Not even reaching marginal levels
	Ability to identify a research-based topic of local interest which is also important in the field of information systems	High	Significant	Moderate	Basic	Not even reaching marginal levels
	Ability to select and critically assess material relevant to the chosen problem area	High	Significant	Moderate	Basic	Not even reaching marginal levels
	Capability to apply some of the methods, tools and techniques developed during the programme to analyse systematically the problem area	High	Significant	Moderate	Basic	Not even reaching marginal levels
	Ability to communicate effectively, orally and in writing (in the form of a dissertation), a programme of applied research or research and development work in information systems	High	Significant	Moderate	Basic	Not even reaching marginal levels
AT2. Dissertation	Ability to plan, schedule, monitor and control a substantial piece of research or research and development work	High	Significant	Moderate	Basic	Not even reaching marginal levels
	Ability to identify a research-based topic of local interest which is also important in the field of information systems	High	Significant	Moderate	Basic	Not even reaching marginal levels
	Ability to select and critically assess material relevant to the chosen problem area	High	Significant	Moderate	Basic	Not even reaching marginal levels
	Capability to apply some of the methods, tools and techniques developed during the programme to analyse systematically the problem area	High	Significant	Moderate	Basic	Not even reaching marginal levels
	Ability to communicate effectively, orally and in writing (in the form of a dissertation), a programme of applied research or research and development work in information systems	High	Significant	Moderate	Basic	Not even reaching 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.)

Students are required to undertake an individual piece of work which uses the subject matter and skills developed in the course. As a general rule the dissertation covers an area of applied research in information systems, resulting in some form of product (which may be a software product or a management report embodying the result of research) of use or relevance to the employment of the student or to the consulting or research activities of the academic staff.

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.	Nil
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2.2 Additional Readings

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

1.	Sekaran, U., <u>Research Methods for Business</u> , 4 th edition, Wiley, 2002.
2.	Turabian, Kate L., <u>A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations</u> , 6 th revision, University of Chicago Press, 1996.
3.	Nissen, H.E., Klein, H.K. and Hirschheim, R., <u>Information systems Research: Contemporary Approaches and Emerging Traditions</u> , North Holland, 1991.

- Updated SYL template in July 2017.