**City University of Hong Kong**
**Course Syllabus**

**offered by Department of English**
**with effect from Semester A in 2023/24**

## Part I    Course Overview

| | |
|---|---|
| **Course Title:** | Independent Studies |
| **Course Code**: | EN8930 |
| **Course Duration:** | 1 Semester |
| **Credit Units**: | 2 |
| **Level**: | R8 |
| **Medium of Instruction:** | English |
| **Medium of Assessment:** | English |
| **Prerequisites**: | NIL |
| **Precursors**: | NIL |
| **Equivalent Courses**: | NIL |
| **Exclusive Courses**: | NIL |

**Part II    Course Details**

**1.    Abstract**

In conjunction with their PhD supervisor, students are required to prepare an extensive annotated bibliography which then serves as a basis for writing up the opening chapters of their thesis.

This course aims to develop an in-depth understanding of a topic, through independent directed reading. By analysis and application of appropriate research methodologies, students will be expected to conduct literature search in the selected topic.

**2.    Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)**

| No. | CILOs | Weighting* (if applicable) | Discovery-enriched curriculum related learning outcomes (please tick where appropriate) | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | *A1* | *A2* | *A3* |
| 1. | Identify and develop a specific focus for an in-depth study relevant to the chosen area of study; | | √ | √ | √ |
| 2. | Explore, analyze and evaluate a selection of existing literature by applying appropriate research methodologies in the field relevant to the chosen area of study; | | √ | √ | √ |
| 3. | Apply the findings of the existing literature to their chosen area of study; | | √ | √ | √ |
| 4. | Generate a written description of the state of the art of their chosen topic. | | √ | √ | √ |
| | | 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)

| TLA | Brief Description | CILO No. | | | | | | Hours/week (if applicable) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | | |
| Independent Research | A student enrolled in the course will work with a designated supervisor. In the first stage of supervision, the student will decide on a topic to work on, and the supervisor will meet with him/her briefly to suggest some initial references. In the second stage of supervision, the supervisor will meet with the student in a detailed session to see if he/she has been able to select an appropriate focus in that area of study.<br><br>The student, through independent research, adds to the reading list to develop a comprehensive annotated bibliography on the selected topic and writes a focused essay on any relevant issue arising from the readings. | √ | √ | √ | √ | | | |

## 4. Assessment Tasks/Activities (ATs)

| Assessment Tasks/Activities | CILO No. | | | | | | Weighting * | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | | | |
| Continuous Assessment: 100 % | | | | | | | | |
| A student enrolled in the course will be required to write an essay of about 5000 to 7000 words (excluding the reference list) on the chosen topic to reflect on the research theories and methods relevant to the topic. This is followed by an annotated bibliography of relevant readings. The annotations are brief, of no more than a paragraph or so on each of the readings relevant to the chosen topic. | √ | √ | √ | √ | | | | |
| Examination: N/A % (duration:               , if applicable) | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | 100% | |

## 5.    Assessment Rubrics

Applicable to students admitted in Semester A 2022/23 and thereafter

| Assessment Task | Criterion | Excellent (A+, A, A-) | Good (B+, B) | Marginal (B-, C+, C) | Failure (F) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Individual Essay | Demonstration of understanding, organisation, analysis and language proficiency | Students demonstrate strong evidence of original thinking and a superior grasp of subject matter. They display outstanding analytic and synthetic abilities in their description of the state of the art of their chosen topic. They also consistently maintain a high degree of grammatical accuracy and exhibit a very effective organization of information in their description. | Students demonstrate some evidence of original thinking and a good grasp of subject matter. They display good analytic and synthetic abilities in their description of the state of the art of their chosen topic. They also consistently maintain a good degree of grammatical accuracy and exhibit a good organization of information in their description. | Students demonstrate sufficient understanding of subject matter. They display some analytic and synthetic abilities in their description of the state of the art of their chosen topic. They also communicate with reasonable accuracy and exhibit an intelligible organization of information in their description. | Students demonstrate little evidence of familiarity with subject matter. They include irrelevant literature and display noticeable weaknesses in critical and analytic skills. They also show limited control of only a few simple grammatical structures and sentence patterns in their description. |

| Assessment Task | Criterion | Excellent (A+, A, A-) | Good (B+, B, B-) | Fair (C+, C, C-) | Marginal (D) | Failure (F) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Individual Essay | Demonstration of understanding, organisation, analysis and language proficiency | Students demonstrate strong evidence of original thinking and a superior grasp of subject matter. They display outstanding analytic and synthetic abilities in their description of the state of the art of their chosen topic. They also consistently maintain a high degree of grammatical accuracy and exhibit a very effective organization of information in their description. | Students demonstrate some evidence of original thinking and a good grasp of subject matter. They display good analytic and synthetic abilities in their description of the state of the art of their chosen topic. They also consistently maintain a good degree of grammatical accuracy and exhibit a good organization of information in their description. | Students demonstrate sufficient understanding of subject matter. They display some analytic and synthetic abilities in their description of the state of the art of their chosen topic. They also communicate with reasonable accuracy and exhibit an intelligible organization of information in their description. | Students demonstrate sufficient familiarity with subject matter to enable them to progress with their description of the state of the art of their chosen topic. They display very weak analytic and synthetic abilities in their description. They can use simple structures correctly but there are often noticeable grammatical anomalies. | Students demonstrate little evidence of familiarity with subject matter. They include irrelevant literature and display noticeable weaknesses in critical and analytic skills. They also show limited control of only a few simple grammatical structures and sentence patterns in their description. |

**Part III   Other Information** (more details can be provided separately in the teaching plan)

**1.   Keyword Syllabus**

There is no specified syllabus for this course. Students will be required to work with a designated supervisor, who will suggest an initial reading list in the area selected. Through independent study, students will add to the reading list to develop a comprehensive annotated bibliography on the selected topic.

**2.   Reading List**

**2.1   Compulsory Readings**

Designated supervisors will suggest an initial list of relevant readings and resources. Students will add to the reading list through independent reading.

**2.2   Additional Readings**

Designated supervisors will suggest an initial list of relevant readings and resources. Students will add to the reading list through independent reading.