City University of Hong Kong
Course Syllabus

offered by Department of Information Systems
with effect from Semester A 2022 / 2023

Part I   Course Overview

Course Title: Research Methods for the IS Manager

Course Code: **IS6000**

Course Duration: **One semester (13 weeks)**

Credit Units: **3**

Level: **P6**

**Medium of
Instruction:**   **English**

**Medium of
Assessment:**   **English**

Prerequisites:
(Course Code and Title)   **Nil**

Precursors:
(Course Code and Title)   **Nil**

Equivalent Courses:
(Course Code and Title)   **Nil**

Exclusive Courses:
(Course Code and Title)   MGT6901 Research Methods for Managers

Part II   Course Details

1.   Abstract

This course aims to equip Taught Masters Students in Information Systems with the necessary foundations and skills to evaluate and perform business-related research at the Masters level.

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.	Explain and communicate the nature and application of current IS research in the organisational context.	25%	✓	✓	✓
2.	Apply appropriate research methodologies to solve organisational IS research problems.	25%	✓	✓	✓
3.	Undertake a small-scale and organisationally relevant IS research project.	25%	✓	✓	✓
4	Draw original supportable conclusions from the conduct of an IS research project in an organisational context.	25%	✓	✓	✓
		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**	
TLA1. Seminar	Introduction to and overview of research and research methods applied in organisational IS research. Selected qualitative and quantitative methods will be studied in detail through the medium of research papers published in IS research and practitioner journals. The entire process of designing, conducting, writing up and presenting organisationally relevant research will be covered.	✓	✓	✓	✓	
TLA2. Field Work	Each project group will need to undertake an investigative project into the use of IS in an organisational context. Through this investigation, students will be expected to develop insights and draw supportable conclusions that they can communicate through a written report as well as an in-class presentation.	✓	✓	✓	✓	

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		
Continuous Assessment: 100%						
AT1. Discussion and Participation Students will be required to attend at least 70% of classes (9 classes). Failure to do so will result in failure of the course as a whole. Individual discussion and participation will be assessed both inside and outside each class, and an aggregate score calculated for the entire semester. Discussion opportunities will include focus group discussions, online self-reflection, student presentations of the research project, and whiteboard-based discussions.	✓	✓	✓	✓	40%	
AT2. Group Project Students will be required to undertake a group project in which they design, undertake and present a small-scale research investigation that is organisationally contextualised and relevant.	✓	✓	✓	✓	60%	
					100%	

Note: Students must attend at least 70% (9) of classes in order to pass this course.

5. Assessment Rubrics

(Grading of student achievements is based on student performance in assessment tasks/activities with the following 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)
AT1. Discussion and Participation	Ability to explain and communicate the nature of current IS research in the organisational context.	High	Significant	Moderate	Not even reaching marginal levels
	Ability to describe how current IS research is applied in organisational contexts.	High	Significant	Moderate	Not even reaching marginal levels
	Capability to apply appropriate research methodologies to solve organisational IS research problems.	High	Significant	Moderate	Not even reaching marginal levels
	Capability to undertake a small-scale and organisationally relevant IS research project.	High	Significant	Moderate	Not even reaching marginal levels
	Ability to Draw original supportable conclusions from the conduct of an IS research project in an organisational context.	High	Significant	Moderate	Not even reaching marginal levels
AT2. Group Project	Ability to explain and communicate the nature of current IS research in the organisational context.	High	Significant	Moderate	Not even reaching marginal levels
	Ability to describe how current IS research is applied in organisational contexts.	High	Significant	Moderate	Not even reaching marginal levels
	Capability to apply appropriate research methodologies to solve organisational IS research problems.	High	Significant	Moderate	Not even reaching marginal levels
	Capability to undertake a small-scale and organisationally relevant IS research project.	High	Significant	Moderate	Not even reaching marginal levels
	Ability to Draw original supportable conclusions from the conduct of an IS research project in an organisational context.	High	Significant	Moderate	Not even reaching marginal levels

Applicable to students admitted before Semester A 2022/23

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B, B-)	Fair (C+, C, C-)	Marginal (D)	Failure (F)
AT1. Discussion and Participation	Ability to explain and communicate the nature of current IS research in the organisational context.	High	Significant	Moderate	Basic	Not even reaching marginal levels
	Ability to describe how current IS research is applied in organisational contexts.	High	Significant	Moderate	Basic	Not even reaching marginal

						levels
	Capability to apply appropriate research methodologies to solve organisational IS research problems.	High	Significant	Moderate	Basic	Not even reaching marginal levels
	Capability to undertake a small-scale and organisationally relevant IS research project.	High	Significant	Moderate	Basic	Not even reaching marginal levels
	Ability to Draw original supportable conclusions from the conduct of an IS research project in an organisational context.	High	Significant	Moderate	Basic	Not even reaching marginal levels
AT2. Group Project	Ability to explain and communicate the nature of current IS research in the organisational context.	High	Significant	Moderate	Basic	Not even reaching marginal levels
	Ability to describe how current IS research is applied in organisational contexts.	High	Significant	Moderate	Basic	Not even reaching marginal levels
	Capability to apply appropriate research methodologies to solve organisational IS research problems.	High	Significant	Moderate	Basic	Not even reaching marginal levels
	Capability to undertake a small-scale and organisationally relevant IS research project.	High	Significant	Moderate	Basic	Not even reaching marginal levels
	Ability to Draw original supportable conclusions from the conduct of an IS research project in an organisational context.	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.)

   Introduction to behavioural IS research: research designs and the roles of qualitative and quantitative methods; the evolution and status of IS research methods; the nature and characteristics of IS research; areas of current IS research; characteristics of good research.

   Conducting IS research: identifying a research problem; theory identification or building; research design and method(s) identification (whether quantitative, qualitative or a combination); data collection and analysis issues; instrument and protocol design; referencing standards.

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.	Saunders, M.N.K., Lewis, P. and Thornhill, A. (2019) Research Methods for Business Students, Eighth Edition, Pearson Education

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

1.	Students will also be assigned readings from academic and practitioner journals.