

City University of Hong Kong
Course Syllabus

offered by Department of Social and Behavioural Sciences
with effect from Semester A 2022/2023

Part I Course Overview

Course Title:	Enhancing Social Science Competence
Course Code:	SS8804
Course Duration:	2 Semesters
Credit Units:	6
Level:	R8
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)	Nil

Part II Course Details

1. Abstract

The course seeks to enhance doctoral students' competence in social science to upgrade their productivity through the lecture, tutorial, and group discussion. It represents a core course to equip doctoral students for excellent performance in social science research. Students can demonstrate their excellence in writing essays, reviews, rejoinders, and discussion reports.

Course Aims:

This course aims to boost students' competence in social science, including its research, reasoning, and production, in a customized way to fit individual students' talents and aspirations. That is, the course is to nurture students to become conversant, vibrant, poised, devoted, accomplished, and thereby excellent social scientists.

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.	Discover their own best ways to conduct social science research	25%	✓	✓	✓
2.	Solve problems encountered in conducting social science research	25%	✓	✓	✓
3.	Formulate their own best ways to accomplish social science work	25%	✓	✓	✓
4.	Enriching their readiness for social science production such as publication	25%	✓	✓	✓
* If weighting is assigned to CILOs, they should add up to 100%.		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: Lecture	Regarding methodology, theory, and research skills	✓	✓	✓	✓			1.5 hr/wk
TLA2: Group and individual tutorial/discussion	Group and individual tutorial: Regarding relevant issues, review essays, their comments, and rejoinders	✓	✓	✓	✓			1.5 hr/wk

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: Review essay writing	✓	✓	✓	✓			30%	
AT2: Comment writing	✓	✓	✓	✓			20%	
AT3: Response to comment writing	✓	✓	✓	✓			20%	
AT4: Revision writing	✓	✓	✓	✓			30%	
Examination: __0__% (duration: _____, if applicable)								
* The weightings should add up to 100%.							100%	

AT1: Review essay writing (30%)

In semester A, each student is to write a review essay within the ambit of social science, as a way to prepare for publication or the dissertation. The essay shall not be more than 3,000 words in the main text covering theory, methodology, and relevant concepts. It is not just a review of existing research, but also a reflection and/or probably innovation on theory and methodology.

AT2: Comment writing (20%)

In semester A, each student is to perform the role as a reviewer and comment on the review essay of another student. The report will have at least 500 words in the main text covering theory, relevant concepts, and methodology.

AT3: Response to comment writing (20%)

In Semester B, each student is to write a response letter to comment on his/her own review essay, provided by a teacher and a student.

AT4: Revision writing (30%)

At the end of Semester B, each student shall submit a revised manuscript according to own responses to reviewers' comment. The amendments should be highlighted in file.

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)
1: Review essay writing	Demonstrate knowledge in the social science research methodology; be able to apply these knowledge and research methods in the student's own research area and to solve problems encountered in their research areas; show understanding and ability to handle the publication process.	Strong evidence to demonstrate knowledge in the social science research methodology; be able to apply these knowledge and research methods in the student's own research area and to solve problems encountered in their research areas; show understanding and ability to handle the publication process.	Good evidence to demonstrate knowledge in the social science research methodology; be able to apply these knowledge and research methods in the student's own research area and to solve problems encountered in their research areas; show understanding and ability to handle the publication process.	Fair to limited evidence to demonstrate knowledge in the social science research methodology; be able to apply these knowledge and research methods in the student's own research area and to solve problems encountered in their research areas; show understanding and ability to handle the publication process.	Insufficient evidence to demonstrate knowledge in the social science research methodology; be able to apply these knowledge and research methods in the student's own research area and to solve problems encountered in their research areas; show understanding and ability to handle the publication process.
2: Comment writing	Demonstrate knowledge in the social science research methodology; be able to apply these knowledge and research methods in the student's own research area and to solve problems encountered in their research areas; show understanding and ability to handle the publication process.	Strong evidence to demonstrate knowledge in the social science research methodology; be able to apply these knowledge and research methods in the student's own research area and to solve problems encountered in their research areas; show understanding and ability to handle the publication process.	Good evidence to demonstrate knowledge in the social science research methodology; be able to apply these knowledge and research methods in the student's own research area and to solve problems encountered in their research areas; show understanding and ability to handle the publication process.	Fair to limited evidence to demonstrate knowledge in the social science research methodology; be able to apply these knowledge and research methods in the student's own research area and to solve problems encountered in their research areas; show understanding and ability to handle the publication process.	Insufficient evidence to demonstrate knowledge in the social science research methodology; be able to apply these knowledge and research methods in the student's own research area and to solve problems encountered in their research areas; show understanding and ability to handle the publication process.

3: Response to comment writing	Demonstrate knowledge in the social science research methodology; be able to apply these knowledge and research methods in the student's own research area and to solve problems encountered in their research areas; show understanding and ability to handle the publication process.	Strong evidence to demonstrate knowledge in the social science research methodology; be able to apply these knowledge and research methods in the student's own research area and to solve problems encountered in their research areas; show understanding and ability to handle the publication process.	Good evidence to demonstrate knowledge in the social science research methodology; be able to apply these knowledge and research methods in the student's own research area and to solve problems encountered in their research areas; show understanding and ability to handle the publication process.	Fair to limited evidence to demonstrate knowledge in the social science research methodology; be able to apply these knowledge and research methods in the student's own research area and to solve problems encountered in their research areas; show understanding and ability to handle the publication process.	Insufficient evidence to demonstrate knowledge in the social science research methodology; be able to apply these knowledge and research methods in the student's own research area and to solve problems encountered in their research areas; show understanding and ability to handle the publication process.
4: Revision writing	Demonstrate knowledge in the social science research methodology; be able to apply these knowledge and research methods in the student's own research area and to solve problems encountered in their research areas; show understanding and ability to handle the publication process.	Strong evidence to demonstrate knowledge in the social science research methodology; be able to apply these knowledge and research methods in the student's own research area and to solve problems encountered in their research areas; show understanding and ability to handle the publication process.	Good evidence to demonstrate knowledge in the social science research methodology; be able to apply these knowledge and research methods in the student's own research area and to solve problems encountered in their research areas; show understanding and ability to handle the publication process.	Fair to limited evidence to demonstrate knowledge in the social science research methodology; be able to apply these knowledge and research methods in the student's own research area and to solve problems encountered in their research areas; show understanding and ability to handle the publication process.	Insufficient evidence to demonstrate knowledge in the social science research methodology; be able to apply these knowledge and research methods in the student's own research area and to solve problems encountered in their research areas; show understanding and ability to handle the publication process.

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)
1: Review essay writing	Demonstrate knowledge in the social science research methodology; be able to apply these knowledge and research methods in the student's own research area and to solve problems encountered in their research areas; show understanding and ability to handle the publication process.	Strong evidence to demonstrate knowledge in the social science research methodology; be able to apply these knowledge and research methods in the student's own research area and to solve problems encountered in their research areas; show understanding and ability to handle the publication process.	Good evidence to demonstrate knowledge in the social science research methodology; be able to apply these knowledge and research methods in the student's own research area and to solve problems encountered in their research areas; show understanding and ability to handle the publication process.	Fair evidence to demonstrate knowledge in the social science research methodology; be able to apply these knowledge and research methods in the student's own research area and to solve problems encountered in their research areas; show understanding and ability to handle the publication process.	Limited evidence to demonstrate knowledge in the social science research methodology; be able to apply these knowledge and research methods in the student's own research area and to solve problems encountered in their research areas; show understanding and ability to handle the publication process.	Insufficient evidence to demonstrate knowledge in the social science research methodology; be able to apply these knowledge and research methods in the student's own research area and to solve problems encountered in their research areas; show understanding and ability to handle the publication process.
2: Comment writing	Demonstrate knowledge in the social science research methodology; be able to apply these knowledge and research methods in the student's own research area and to solve problems encountered in their research areas; show understanding and ability to handle the publication process.	Strong evidence to demonstrate knowledge in the social science research methodology; be able to apply these knowledge and research methods in the student's own research area and to solve	Good evidence to demonstrate knowledge in the social science research methodology; be able to apply these knowledge and research methods in the student's own research area and to solve	Fair evidence to demonstrate knowledge in the social science research methodology; be able to apply these knowledge and research methods in the student's own research area and to solve	Limited evidence to demonstrate knowledge in the social science research methodology; be able to apply these knowledge and research methods in the student's own research area and to solve	Insufficient evidence to demonstrate knowledge in the social science research methodology; be able to apply these knowledge and research methods in the student's own research area

		problems encountered in their research areas; show understanding and ability to handle the publication process.	problems encountered in their research areas; show understanding and ability to handle the publication process.	problems encountered in their research areas; show understanding and ability to handle the publication process.	problems encountered in their research areas; show understanding and ability to handle the publication process.	and to solve problems encountered in their research areas; show understanding and ability to handle the publication process.
3: Response to comment writing	Demonstrate knowledge in the social science research methodology; be able to apply these knowledge and research methods in the student's own research area and to solve problems encountered in their research areas; show understanding and ability to handle the publication process.	Strong evidence to demonstrate knowledge in the social science research methodology; be able to apply these knowledge and research methods in the student's own research area and to solve problems encountered in their research areas; show understanding and ability to handle the publication process.	Good evidence to demonstrate knowledge in the social science research methodology; be able to apply these knowledge and research methods in the student's own research area and to solve problems encountered in their research areas; show understanding and ability to handle the publication process.	Fair evidence to demonstrate knowledge in the social science research methodology; be able to apply these knowledge and research methods in the student's own research area and to solve problems encountered in their research areas; show understanding and ability to handle the publication process.	Limited evidence to demonstrate knowledge in the social science research methodology; be able to apply these knowledge and research methods in the student's own research area and to solve problems encountered in their research areas; show understanding and ability to handle the publication process.	Insufficient evidence to demonstrate knowledge in the social science research methodology; be able to apply these knowledge and research methods in the student's own research area and to solve problems encountered in their research areas; show understanding and ability to handle the publication process.
4: Revision writing	Demonstrate knowledge in the social science research methodology; be able to apply these knowledge and research methods in the student's own	Strong evidence to demonstrate knowledge in the social science research	Good evidence to demonstrate knowledge in the social science research	Fair evidence to demonstrate knowledge in the social science research	Limited evidence to demonstrate knowledge in the social science research	Insufficient evidence to demonstrate knowledge in the social science

	research area and to solve problems encountered in their research areas; show understanding and ability to handle the publication process.	methodology; be able to apply these knowledge and research methods in the student's own research area and to solve problems encountered in their research areas; show understanding and ability to handle the publication process.	methodology; be able to apply these knowledge and research methods in the student's own research area and to solve problems encountered in their research areas; show understanding and ability to handle the publication process.	methodology; be able to apply these knowledge and research methods in the student's own research area and to solve problems encountered in their research areas; show understanding and ability to handle the publication process.	methodology; be able to apply these knowledge and research methods in the student's own research area and to solve problems encountered in their research areas; show understanding and ability to handle the publication process.	research methodology; be able to apply these knowledge and research methods in the student's own research area and to solve problems encountered in their research areas; show understanding and ability to handle the publication process.
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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.)

Philosophic of social science; social science methodology; social science theories; other issues raised by students

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.	Atkinson, P., Delamont, P., & Delamont, S. (2010). <i>SAGE qualitative research methods (SAGE Benchmarks in Social Research Methods)</i> . London: SAGE. (Online Access)
2.	Besen-Cassino, Y., & Cassino, D. (2018). <i>Social research methods by example: Applications in the modern world</i> . New York, NY: Routledge.
3.	Bickman, L., & Rog, D. (2009). <i>The SAGE handbook of applied social research methods</i> (2 nd ed.). Los Angeles: SAGE. (Online Access)
4.	Vogt, W. (2011). <i>SAGE quantitative research methods (SAGE Benchmarks in Social Research Methods)</i> . London: SAGE. (Online Access)

2.2 Additional Readings

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

1.	Alvesson, M., & Skoldberg, K. (2000). <i>Reflective Methodology: New Vistas for Qualitative Research</i> . London: Sage.
2.	Alvesson, M. (2002). <i>Postmodernism and Social Research</i> . Buckingham, UK: Open University Press.
3.	Benton, T. & Craib, I. (2011). <i>Philosophy of Social Science: The Philosophical Foundations of Social Thought</i> . Houndmills, UK: Palgrave.
4.	Brinkmann, S. (2018). <i>Philosophies of qualitative research (Series in understanding qualitative research)</i> . New York, NY: Oxford University Press.
5.	Bors, D. (2018). <i>Data analysis for the social sciences: Integrating theory and practice</i> . London: Sage Publications.
6.	Gorvine, B., Rosengren, K., Stein, L., & Biolsi, K. (2018). <i>Research methods: From theory to practice</i> . New York: Oxford University Press.
7.	Groh, A. (2018). <i>Research Methods in Indigenous Contexts</i> . Cham: Springer International Publishing: Imprint: Springer. (Online Access)
8.	Haig, B. (2018). <i>The philosophy of quantitative methods (Series in understanding statistics)</i> . New York: Oxford University Press.
9.	Caro, S. (2009). <i>How to Publish Your PhD: A Practical Guide for the Humanities and Social Sciences</i> . Los Angeles, CA: SAGE.
10.	Coghlan, D., Brydon-Miller, M., & Gale Group. (2014). <i>The SAGE encyclopedia of action research (Gale virtual reference library)</i> . London: SAGE Reference.
11.	Fay, Brian. 1987. <i>Critical Social Science: Liberation and Its Limits</i> . Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.
12.	Gadd, D., Karstedt, S., & Messner, S. (2012). <i>Sage handbook of criminological research methods</i> . Los Angeles: Sage Publications. Gerring, John. 2012. <i>Social Science Methodology: A Unified Framework</i> . Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.
13.	Halfpenny, P. (1982). <i>Positivism and Sociology: Explaining Social Life</i> . London: George Allen & Unwin.
14.	Hedstrom, P. (2005). <i>Dissecting the Social: On the Principles of Analytical Sociology</i> . Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

15.	Hughes, J., & Goodwin, J. (2012). SAGE internet research methods (SAGE Library of Research Methods). London: SAGE. (Library Online Access)
16.	Layder, D. (1990). <i>The Realist Image in Social Science</i> . Houndmills, England: Macmillan.
17.	Lyons, P. & Howard J. D. (2010). <i>The dissertation: From beginning to end</i> . New York: Oxford University Press.
18.	Mithaug, D.E. (2000). <i>Learning to Theorize: A Four-step Strategy</i> . Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
19.	Thomson, P. & Walker, M. (eds.) 2010. <i>The Routledge Doctoral Student's Companion: Getting to Grips with Research in Education and the Social Sciences</i> . New York: Routledge.
20.	Rosenberg, A. (2012). <i>Philosophy of social science</i> (4 th ed.). Boulder, CO: Westview Press.
21.	Ruscio, J. (2006). <i>Critical Thinking in Psychology: Separating Sense from Nonsense</i> . Belmont, CA: Thomson.
22.	Venkatesh, V. (2011). <i>Road to Success: A Guide for Doctoral Students and Junior Faculty Members in the Behavioral and Social Sciences</i> . Indianapolis, IN: Dog Ear.
23.	Wyse, D., Selwyn, N., Smith, E., & Suter, L. (2017). <i>The BERA/SAGE Handbook of Educational Research. 2: Two volume set</i> (1 st ed.). London: SAGE Publications.
24.	Yegidis, B., Weinbach, R., & Myers, L. (2018). <i>Research Methods for Social Workers</i> (8 th ed., Merrill Social Work and Human Services). New York: Pearson.