

# CA5203: RESEARCH METHODS AND THESIS DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR IN ARCHITECTURE

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## Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

## Part I Course Overview

### Course Title

Research Methods and Thesis Development Seminar in Architecture

### Subject Code

CA - Civil and Architectural Engineering

### Course Number

5203

### Academic Unit

Architecture and Civil Engineering (CA)

### College/School

College of Engineering (EG)

### Course Duration

One Semester

### Credit Units

3

### Level

P5, P6 - Postgraduate Degree

### Medium of Instruction

English

### Medium of Assessment

English

### Prerequisites

Nil

### Precursors

Nil

### Equivalent Courses

Nil

### Exclusive Courses

Nil

## Part II Course Details

### Abstract

This course aims to prepare students for their thesis project formulation in Architecture Thesis Studio. Through a variety of research activities, students will be introduced to the aspects and process of research, and finally explore the development of research interest into a research plan.

### Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Explain different aspects and process of research		x	
2	Apply systematic literature review in architecture theory and design		x	
3	Identify research trends of topics related to Architecture and Urbanism	x	x	
4	Develop research interest into a research plan and architecture thesis proposal	x	x	x

#### 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 real-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.

### Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs	Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Lectures	Students will engage in lecture activities about the research process, research method, and techniques to formulate a research question, conduct a literature review, design data collection, and analysis, establish linkages of design and research.	1, 2, 3, 4
2	Tutorials	Students will engage in tutorials about the lecture contents and practice what they learned by exercises and presentations.	1, 2, 3, 4

#### Additional Information for LTAs

Semester Hours: 3 hours per week

Lecture/Tutorial/Laboratory Mix: Lecture (Mix); Tutorial (Mix); Laboratory (-)

Mixed lecture and tutorial sessions

#### Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- " for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Assignments	1, 2, 3, 4	100	-	Yes

#### Continuous Assessment (%)

100

#### Minimum Continuous Assessment Passing Requirement (%)

40

#### Minimum Examination Passing Requirement (%)

0

#### Assessment Rubrics (AR)

##### Assessment Task

Assignments (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

##### Criterion

Quality of assignment to reflect student's understanding of the aspects and process of the research, comprehension of the literature reviewed for selected topics in architectural theory and design, ability in identifying the research trend related to Architecture and Urbanism, and depth of exploration of the development of selected research interest into a research plan and architecture thesis proposal

##### Excellent

(A+, A, A-) High

##### Good

(B+, B, B-) Significant

##### Fair

(C+, C, C-) Moderate

##### Marginal

(D) Basic

##### Failure

(F) Not even reaching marginal levels

##### Assessment Task

Assignments (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

##### Criterion

Quality of assignment to reflect student's understanding of the aspects and process of the research, comprehension of the literature reviewed for selected topics in architectural theory and design, ability in identifying the research trend related to Architecture and Urbanism, and depth of exploration of the development of selected research interest into a research plan and architecture thesis proposal.

##### Excellent

(A+, A, A-) High

**Good**

(B+, B) Significant

**Marginal**

(B-, C+, C) Basic

**Failure**

(F) Not even reaching marginal levels

## Part III Other Information

**Keyword Syllabus**

Research and design; seminar on the research process, research method, and techniques to formulate a research question, conduct a literature review, design data collection and analysis; Architecture and Urbanism.

**Reading List****Compulsory Readings**

Title	
1	Nil

**Additional Readings**

Title	
1	Yin. R. K. (1994) Case Study Research: Design and Methods, Sage Publication.
2	John Zeisel and John P. Eberhard (2006) Inquiry by Design: Environment/Behavior/Neuroscience in Architecture, Interiors, Landscape, and Planning. W. W. Norton.
3	David Wang, Linda Groat (2018) Architectural Research Methods, Second Edition. Wiley India.
4	Ajla Aksamija (2021) Research Methods for the Architectural Profession. Routledge.
5	Charles Jencks (2006) Theories and Manifestoes of Contemporary Architecture, Second Edition. Academy Press.
6	Groat, L. N., & Wang, D. (2013). Architectural research methods. John Wiley & Sons.
7	Lucas, R., & Lucas, R. (2016). Research methods for architecture. Hachette UK.
8	Samuel, F., & Dye, A. (2019). Demystifying Architectural Research: Adding value to your practice. Routledge.