

# PIA6604: MAPPM CAPSTONE PROJECT

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## Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

## Part I Course Overview

### Course Title

MAPPM Capstone Project

### Subject Code

PIA - Public and International Affairs

### Course Number

6604

### Academic Unit

Public and International Affairs (PIA)

### College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

### Course Duration

Two Semesters

### Credit Units

0-3

### Level

P5, P6 - Postgraduate Degree

### Medium of Instruction

English

### Medium of Assessment

English

### Prerequisites

Nil

### Precursors

Nil

### Equivalent Courses

Nil

### Exclusive Courses

PIA6903 MAPPM Dissertation

### Additional Information

Course Duration: Two Semesters (Semester A and B for part-time students; Semester B and Summer for full-time students)

## Part II Course Details

### Abstract

This course aims to enable students in integrating and applying the theories, technologies and practices they acquired in various courses in the programme in generating new ideas, constructing innovative practices or devising alternate perspective in chosen subject issues in public management and policy. Doing so, they will further practice analysis, sharpen their critical thinking and problem solving skills, and learn to make evidence-informed decisions in a complex and dynamic environment. Students will work in groups of 3-5 students to work on a topic of their choice (the exact number of students per group will be decided by the course leader upon knowing the actual enrolment for this course).

### Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if DEC-A1 DEC-A2 DEC-A3 app.)			
1	Identify issues in public management and policy that are inadequately understood or being poorly handled		x		
2	Critically analyse and evaluate the knowledge gap relating to the public management and policy issues that are identified		x	x	
3	Design and implement plans to collect relevant information		x	x	
4	Discover new knowledge or construct new practice in relation to the identified issues in public management and policy		x	x	
5	Communicate effectively the new knowledge related to the identified public management and policy issues				x
6	Work effectively in a team		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	Readings and meetings	Private reading of individual students and meetings of the project group	1, 2, 3, 4, 6	Up to 6 hours per week
2	Meetings with supervisor	Regular meetings between the project group and the supervisor	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	2 hours per week

3	Interim report	Interim report of the project group	3	End of the first semester/ summer term
4	Presentation	Presentation of research proposal	2, 5	End of the first semester/ summer term
5	Final Report	Final report, which contains literature review, data, methods, and findings.	2, 4, 6	End of the course

**Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)**

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- " for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Project proposal and presentation	1, 2, 3, 5	10	-	No
2	Final report (7,500-9500 words)	1, 2, 4, 5	70	-	No
3	Peer review	6	15	Also used to identify free riders	No
4	Reflective Journal (500-800 Words)	4, 5, 6	5	-	No

**Continuous Assessment (%)**

100

**Assessment Rubrics (AR)****Assessment Task**

Project proposal and presentation (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 &amp; thereafter)

**Criterion**

Quality of the proposal and presentation

**Excellent**

(A+, A, A-) Knowledge and skills required to undertake an original discovery research project is excellently demonstrated and applied.

**Good**

(B+, B, B-) Knowledge and skills required to undertake an original discovery research project is well demonstrated and applied.

**Fair**

(C+, C, C-) Knowledge and skills required to undertake an original discovery research project is rudimentarily demonstrated and applied.

**Marginal**

(D) Knowledge and skills required to undertake an original discovery research project is limited.

**Failure**

(F) Unable to demonstrate and apply knowledge and skills required to undertake an original discovery research project.

**Assessment Task**

Final report (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 &amp; thereafter)

**Criterion**

Content of the final report

**Excellent**

(A+, A, A-) Very high quality of critical thinking, review of literature, analysis and evaluation, written communication, and creative findings.

**Good**

(B+, B, B-) Good quality of critical thinking, review of literature, analysis and evaluation, written communication, and creative findings.

**Fair**

(C+, C, C-) Fair quality of critical thinking, review of literature, analysis and evaluation, written communication, and creative findings

**Marginal**

(D) Superficial critical thinking and limited effort in the review of literature, analysis and evaluation and poor written communication, and limited creative findings.

**Failure**

(F) No critical thinking and little effort in the review of literature, analysis and evaluation and very poor written communication, and very limited creative findings.

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**Assessment Task**

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

**Criterion**

Evaluation by peers

**Excellent**

(A+, A, A-) Outstanding evaluation results

**Good**

(B+, B, B-) Good evaluation results

**Fair**

(C+, C, C-) Fair evaluation results

**Marginal**

(D) Marginal evaluation results

**Failure**

(F) Poor evaluation results

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**Assessment Task**

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

**Criterion**

Quality of the journal

**Excellent**

(A+, A, A-) Demonstrate ability to integrate theory and practice.

**Good**

(B+, B, B-) Some Indication ability to integrate theory and practice.

**Fair**

(C+, C, C-) Limited ability to integrate theory and practice.

**Marginal**

(D) Minimal ability to integrate theory and practice.

**Failure**

(F) No demonstration of the ability to integrate theory and practice.

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**Assessment Task**

Project proposal and presentation (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

**Criterion**

Quality of the proposal and presentation

**Excellent**

(A+, A, A-) Knowledge and skills required to undertake an original discovery research project is excellently demonstrated and applied.

**Good**

(B+, B) Knowledge and skills required to undertake an original discovery research project is well demonstrated and applied.

**Marginal**

(B-, C+, C) Knowledge and skills required to undertake an original discovery research project is rudimentarily demonstrated and applied.

**Failure**

(F) Unable to demonstrate and apply knowledge and skills required to undertake an original discovery research project.

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**Assessment Task**

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

**Criterion**

Content of the final report

**Excellent**

(A+, A, A-) Very high quality of critical thinking, review of literature, analysis and evaluation, written communication, and creative findings.

**Good**

(B+, B) Good quality of critical thinking, review of literature, analysis and evaluation, written communication, and creative findings.

**Marginal**

(B-, C+, C) Fair quality of critical thinking, review of literature, analysis and evaluation, written communication, and creative findings

### **Failure**

(F) No critical thinking and little effort in the review of literature, analysis and evaluation and very poor written communication, and very limited creative findings.

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### **Assessment Task**

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

### **Criterion**

Evaluation by peers

### **Excellent**

(A+, A, A-) Outstanding evaluation results

### **Good**

(B+, B) Good evaluation results

### **Marginal**

(B-, C+, C) Fair evaluation results

### **Failure**

(F) Poor evaluation results

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### **Assessment Task**

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

### **Criterion**

Quality of the journal

### **Excellent**

(A+, A, A-) Demonstrate ability to integrate theory and practice.

### **Good**

(B+, B) Some Indication ability to integrate theory and practice.

### **Marginal**

(B-, C+, C) Limited ability to integrate theory and practice.

### **Failure**

(F) No demonstration of the ability to integrate theory and practice.

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## **Part III Other Information**

### **Keyword Syllabus**

Research planning (problem identification, research statement, research objectives), literature review, conceptual framework, research methodologies (data collection strategies, quantitative research methods, qualitative research methods), data analysis (descriptive statistics, two variables analysis, qualitative data analysis, model building), research presentation (verbal and oral presentation, research findings presentation, graphing data), research conclusion, policy implications, appraising research.

### **Reading List**

**Compulsory Readings**

Title	
1	King, G., Keohane, R. O., & Verba, S. (1994). Designing social inquiry: Scientific inference in qualitative research. Princeton university press.
2	Van Thiel, S. (2014). Research methods in public administration and public management: An introduction. Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge.
3	Gray, David E. (2009). Doing research in the real world 2nd edition, Los Angeles ; London: SAGE.
4	Nigel Gilbert (2009). Researching Social Life Third Edition, London: Sage.
5	Ridley, Diana (2012). The literature review : a step-by-step guide for students London : SAGE.
6	Verhoeven, Pieternella Susanna (2011) Doing research : the hows and whys of applied research 3rd ed., The Hague : Eleven International Publishing ; Chicago, IL, USA

**Additional Readings**

Title	
1	Nil