

PIA6803: RESEARCH METHODS FOR HOUSING AND URBAN MANAGEMENT

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Research Methods for Housing and Urban Management

Subject Code

PIA - Public and International Affairs

Course Number

6803

Academic Unit

Public and International Affairs (PIA)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

2

Level

P5, P6 - Postgraduate Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

POL6803 Research Methods for Housing and Urban Management,
POL5505 Research Methods for Urban Managers

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course aims to provide students with basic knowledge and skills in social research methods which include setting research questions, collecting and processing data as well as analysing and presenting the research outputs. Particular emphasis will be put on the critical evaluation of research findings and the techniques student required for their capstone projects. Equal emphasis will be put on the quantitative and qualitative approaches of social research.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if DEC-A1 DEC-A2 DEC-A3 app.)			
1	Appraise critically current and emerging quantitative and qualitative approaches of social research			x	
2	Evaluate findings from research critically			x	
3	Design basic quantitative and qualitative research project with appropriate data collection and data analysis tools				x
4	Produce research reporting in both written as well as oral means				x
5	Understand and evaluate ethical issues in the research process		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 (including workshop activities)	- On basic knowledge and skills on research methods - theories, data collection, data analysis, data presentation and critique - Hand-on exercise sessions, experience sharing and consultations	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	26 hours in total
2	Research proposal	- Preparing a research proposal in group meetings outside scheduled classes	1, 2, 3, 5	Estimated 10 hours in total of private study

3	Research proposal	i) Research Design	1, 3	
4	Research proposal	ii) Literature Review	2	
5	Research proposal	iii) Ethical Issues in proposed research	5	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- " for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Commentary	1, 3, 5	20	Write a commentary on and give suggestions on the research design and methodology of a research.	No
2	Activities and assignments: - Interview question design - Questionnaire Design - Quantitative data processing and analysis	2, 4, 5	45	Practicing quantitative and qualitative research methods learnt in lectures.	No
3	Final research proposal	3, 4, 5	35	Think of a research topic and write a research proposal.	No

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

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

Criterion

Be able to comment on and give suggestions on research design and methodology of a research.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Give excellent comments and very sound suggestions on the research design and methodology of the research.

Good

(B+, B, B-) Give good comments and generally sound suggestions on the research design and methodology of the research.

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Give fair comments and fair suggestions on the research design and methodology of the research.

Marginal

(D) Give marginally acceptable comments and suggestions on the research design and methodology of the research.

Failure

(F) Give poor comments and suggestions on the research design and methodology of the research.

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

Understand how to use survey and interview research methods. What kind of questions is suitable for the methods?
Understand the advantages and disadvantages of each method. Able to analyse and interpret data.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent design of questionnaire/interview questions. Very well incorporation of knowledge learnt in class. Good reflections on each method after the practice. Excellent analysis and interpretation of data.

Good

(B+, B, B-) Good design of questionnaire/interview questions. Good incorporation of knowledge learnt in class. Good reflections on each method after the practice. Good analysis and interpretation of data.

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Fair design of questionnaire/interview questions. Some incorporation of knowledge learnt in class. Fair reflections on each method after the practice. Fair analysis and interpretation of data.

Marginal

(D) Obvious limitations in design of questionnaire/interview questions. Limited incorporation of knowledge learnt in class. Limited reflections on each method after the practice. Marginally acceptable analysis and interpretation of data.

Failure

(F) Poor design of questionnaire/interview questions. Poorly incorporation of knowledge learnt in class. Poor reflections on each method after the practice. Poor analysis and interpretation of data.

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

Research design with effective methodologies for research questions, integrating qualitative and quantitative methods.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent grasp of knowledge of both the quantitative and qualitative methods for data collection and analysis. Very well demonstrated capacity in developing a scientific and feasible research proposal. Very clear and effective communication of the research proposal to a broader audience.

Good

(B+, B, B-) Good grasp of knowledge of both the quantitative and qualitative methods for data collection and analysis. Well demonstrated capacity in developing a scientific and feasible research proposal. Good communication of the research proposal to a broader audience.

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Some grasp of knowledge of both the quantitative and qualitative methods for data collection and analysis. Demonstrated some capacity in developing a scientific and feasible research proposal. Fair communication of the research proposal to a broader audience.

Marginal

(D) Obviously limited knowledge of both the quantitative and qualitative methods for data collection and analysis. Limited demonstrated capacity in developing a scientific and feasible research proposal. Limited communication of the research proposal to a broader audience.

Failure

(F) Poor knowledge of both the quantitative and qualitative methods for data collection and analysis. Little demonstrated capacity in developing a scientific and feasible research proposal. Little communication of the research proposal to a broader audience.

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

Be able to comment on and give suggestions on research design and methodology of a research.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Give excellent comments and very sound suggestions on the research design and methodology of the research.

Good

(B+, B) Give good comments and generally sound suggestions on the research design and methodology of the research.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Give fair comments and fair suggestions on the research design and methodology of the research.

Failure

(F) Give poor comments and suggestions on the research design and methodology of the research.

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

Understand how to use survey and interview research methods. What kind of questions is suitable for the methods? Understand the advantages and disadvantages of each method. Able to analyse and interpret data.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent design of questionnaire/interview questions. Very well incorporation of knowledge learnt in class. Good reflections on each method after the practice. Excellent analysis and interpretation of data.

Good

(B+, B) Good design of questionnaire/interview questions. Good incorporation of knowledge learnt in class. Good reflections on each method after the practice. Good analysis and interpretation of data.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Fair design of questionnaire/interview questions. Some incorporation of knowledge learnt in class. Fair reflections on each method after the practice. Fair analysis and interpretation of data.

Failure

(F) Poor design of questionnaire/interview questions. Poorly incorporation of knowledge learnt in class. Poor reflections on each method after the practice. Poor analysis and interpretation of data.

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

Research design with effective methodologies for research questions, integrating qualitative and quantitative methods.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent grasp of knowledge of both the quantitative and qualitative methods for data collection and analysis. Very well demonstrated capacity in developing a scientific and feasible research proposal. Very clear and effective communication of the research proposal to a broader audience.

Good

(B+, B) Good grasp of knowledge of both the quantitative and qualitative methods for data collection and analysis. Well demonstrated capacity in developing a scientific and feasible research proposal. Good communication of the research proposal to a broader audience.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Some grasp of knowledge of both the quantitative and qualitative methods for data collection and analysis. Demonstrated some capacity in developing a scientific and feasible research proposal. Fair communication of the research proposal to a broader audience.

Failure

(F) Poor knowledge of both the quantitative and qualitative methods for data collection and analysis. Little demonstrated capacity in developing a scientific and feasible research proposal. Little communication of the research proposal to a broader audience.

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

The logic of social inquiry, paradigm and theory, Research design, Measurement, Conceptualisation and operationalisation, Sampling, Social survey, Quantitative data analysis, Qualitative research design, In-depth interviewing, Case study, Ethics of social research, Presentation, Appreciation and evaluation of social research.

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

	Title
1	Andranovich, G. D. and Riposa, G. (1993) <i>Doing Urban Research</i> Newbury Park: SAGE.
2	Babbie, E (2006) <i>The Practice of Social Research</i> (11th edition), Wadsworth: Thomson Learning [8th (1998) and 9th editions (2001) and 10th (2003) can also be used].
3	Bell, Judith (2005) <i>Doing your research project: a guide for first-time researchers in education, health and social science</i> 4th ed. Maidenhead, England ; New York : Open University Press.
4	Berg, B.L. (2004) <i>Qualitative research methods for the social sciences</i> 5th ed. Boston : Allyn and Bacon.
5	Bryman, A. (2004) <i>Social Research Methods</i> (2nd edition), Oxford: Oxford University Press.
6	Gilbert, N. (2001) <i>Researching Social Life</i> , second edition, London: Sage.
7	Grunbbauer, M. and Shaw, K. (eds.) (2018) <i>Across Theory and Practice: Thinking Through Urban Research</i> Berlin: Jovis.
8	Harrison, J and D Hoyler, M. (eds.) (2018) <i>Doing Global Urban Research</i> . Los Angeles: SAGE.
9	Johnson, Gail (2002) <i>Research methods for public administrators</i> , Westport, CT: Quorum Books.
10	Miller, Gerald J. and Whicker, Marcia L. (1999) <i>Handbook of research methods in public administration</i> (ed), New York: M. Dekker
11	Punch, Keith (2006) <i>Developing effective research proposals</i> , 2nd ed, London; Thousand Oaks, Calif.: SAGE.
12	Robertson, D. S. McLaughlin, Pat (1996) <i>Looking into housing: a practical guide to housing research</i> , Coventry: Chartered Institute of Housing.

13	Schutt, R. (2009) Investigating the Social World (second edition), Thousand Oak, Calif: Pine Forge Press.
14	Simon, D., Hebrietta Palmer and Riise, J. (2020) Comparative Urban Research from Theory to Practice Bristol: Policy Press.

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Nil