

PIA6804: MAHUM CAPSTONE PROJECT

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

MAHUM Capstone Project

Subject Code

PIA - Public and International Affairs

Course Number

6804

Academic Unit

Public and International Affairs (PIA)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

Non-standard Duration

Other Course Duration

Two semesters for part-time students (2 credits in Semester A + 2 credits in Semester B);

Three semesters for Sept. entry full-time students (1 credit in Semester A + 2 credits in Semester B + 1 credit in Summer Term);

Three semesters for Jan. entry full-time students (1 credit in Semester B + 1 credit in Summer Term + 2 credits in Semester A)

Credit Units

0-4

Level

P5, P6 - Postgraduate Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

POL6804 MAHUM Capstone Project

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course aims to enable students to undertake an original piece of group research in housing and urban management to integrate problems identified in the housing and urban field with different theoretical perspectives in housing and urban management in a creative and innovative way, and to apply theories and research techniques to a chosen subject matter.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

	CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Discover new knowledge by identifying and formulating a research project on a housing and/or urban related topic at master degree level;		x	x	x
2	Work and communicate effectively and creatively with others;				
3	Analyze a specific topic in housing and urban management critically;		x	x	
4	Seek and apply quantitative and qualitative data and materials relevant to the project objectives; and		x	x	
5	Identify and critically analyse synthesize and evaluate knowledge and theories relating to housing and urban management applying theories and concepts to evaluate real-life cases.		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	Supervised group capstone project	Students will identify and develop a housing or urban related research topic to be undertaken with a small group of fellow students. The principal function of the supervision is to keep the capstone project work focused, relevant and productive. The development of the capstone project includes the following stages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · approval of a project topic (by supervisor)--- the topic is determined by the capstone group under the guidance of the supervisor; · approval of a project outline/interim report (by supervisor), outlining the research question, research design, methodology etc.; · submission of the draft project report to supervisor---further revisions of the draft may be needed before final submission; and · final submission of the completed project. Each group of students is required to submit a research report for their capstone project before the examination week of Semester B for part-time students and before the examination week of the Summer term for Sept. entry full-time students (Semester A for Jan. entry full-time students). The length of the main text of the research report shall be in the range of 15,000-20,000 words. The main text may be supplemented by footnotes and appendices.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5

2	Peer assessments	Each student must complete peer review of his or her group members.	2	
3	Reflective essay	Each student must complete a reflective essay on participation in the group research project.	2, 5	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	<p>Group research report: Each group must submit a research report with 15,000-20,000 words for the capstone project. The report will be marked by the project supervisor and by a second assessor. Where the marks awarded by the two assessors differ widely, a third examiner will be appointed.</p> <p>Project proposal Presentation: Each group makes a presentation on the research proposal</p>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	70	<p>Group research report: P/T:70%; F/T:65%</p> <p>AI is not allowed in the writing of group research report, except in checking and improving English-writing as well as in translation of items in the Appendices of the report (such as translation of data-collection tools, consent form used in the research from Chinese into English).</p> <p>Project proposal Presentation: P/T:0%; F/T:5%</p>	No
2	<p>Reflective essay: Each student must complete a Reflective Essay which reflects upon the experience of conducting the project and lessons learnt from the course.</p>	2, 5	15	P/T:15%; F/T:15%	No

3	Peer assessments: Each student must submit peer assessment of each of his or her group members.	2	15	P/T:15%; F/T:15%	No
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Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Additional Information for ATs

*The F/T students are mainly urban management students, while the P/T students are mainly housing students.

Housing Students (both P/T and F/T)

The two professional housing institutes require that there is an individual component to the assessment of the Housing Capstone Project course. This means that **if you do not submit the reflective essay, you do not meet the requirements of the course and therefore you fail the whole course. This applies to both full-time and part-time housing (HS) capstone students.**

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

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

Criterion

Ability to demonstrate knowledge and skills required to undertake an original discovery research project; quality of critical thinking, review of literature, analysis and evaluation, written communication, and sound interpretation of findings; ability to integrate theory and practice

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Demonstrate excellent knowledge and skills to undertake an original research project; excellent quality of critical thinking, very thorough review of literature, excellent written communication; with very sound interpretation of findings excellent integration of theory and practice

Good

(B+, B, B-) Demonstrate good knowledge and skills to undertake an original research project; good quality of critical thinking, thorough review of literature, good written communication; with sound interpretation of findings good integration of theory and practice

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Demonstrate satisfactory knowledge and skills to undertake an original research project; fair quality of critical thinking, quite thorough review of literature, fair written communication; with quite sound interpretation of findings fair integration of theory and practice

Marginal

(D) Demonstrate marginal knowledge and skills to undertake an original research project; marginal quality of critical thinking, marginally thorough review of literature, marginal standard of written communication; marginally sound interpretation of findings marginal integration of theory and practice

Failure

(F) Demonstrate poor knowledge and skills to undertake an original research project; low quality of critical thinking, not thorough review of literature, poor standard of written communication; poor interpretation of findings poor integration of theory and practice

Assessment Task

Project Proposal Presentation (For F/T students only) (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Ability to make a sound research proposal, in clear verbal communication

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent ability to make a very sound research proposal, in excellently clear verbal communication

Good

(B+, B, B-) Good ability to make a sound research proposal, in good and clear verbal communication

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Satisfactory ability to make a reasonably sound research proposal, in reasonably clear verbal communication

Marginal

(D) Fair ability to make a quite sound research proposal, in fairly clear verbal communication

Failure

(F) Poor ability to make a sound research proposal, poor verbal communication

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

Ability to consider and evaluate one's own research experience in a critically reflective manner

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent ability to consider and evaluate one's own research experience in a highly critical reflective manner

Good

(B+, B, B-) Good ability to consider and evaluate one's own research experience in a critically reflective manner

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Satisfactory ability to consider and evaluate one's own research experience in a reasonably critical reflective manner

Marginal

(D) Fair ability to consider and evaluate one's own research experience in a fairly critical reflective manner

Failure

(F) Poor ability to consider and evaluate one's own research experience and in a non-critical reflective manner

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

Ability to make valid contribution to the group research project

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent ability to make valid contribution to the group research project

Good

(B+, B, B-) Good ability to make valid contribution to the group research project

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Satisfactory ability to make valid contribution to the group research project

Marginal

(D) Fair ability to make valid contribution to the group research project

Failure

(F) Poor ability to make valid contribution to the group research project

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

Ability to demonstrate knowledge and skills required to undertake an original discovery research project; quality of critical thinking, review of literature, analysis and evaluation, written communication, and creative findings; ability to integrate theory and practice

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Demonstrate excellent knowledge and skills to undertake an original research project; excellent quality of critical thinking, very thorough review of literature, excellent written communication; with very sound interpretation of findings excellent integration of theory and practice

Good

(B+, B) Demonstrate good knowledge and skills to undertake an original research project; good quality of critical thinking, thorough review of literature, good written communication; with sound interpretation of findings good integration of theory and practice

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Demonstrate satisfactory knowledge and skills to undertake an original research project; fair quality of critical thinking, quite thorough review of literature, fair written communication; with quite sound interpretation of findings fair integration of theory and practice

Failure

(F) Demonstrate poor knowledge and skills to undertake an original research project; low quality of critical thinking, not thorough review of literature, poor standard of written communication; poor interpretation of findings poor integration of theory and practice

Assessment Task

Project Proposal Presentation (For F/T students only) (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Ability to make a sound research proposal, in clear verbal communication

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent ability to make a very sound research proposal, in excellently clear verbal communication

Good

(B+, B) Good ability to make a sound research proposal, in good and clear verbal communication

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Satisfactory ability to make a reasonably sound research proposal, in reasonably clear verbal communication

Failure

(F) Poor ability to make a sound research proposal, poor verbal communication

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

Ability to consider and evaluate one' s own research experience in a critically reflective manner

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent ability to consider and evaluate one' s own research experience in a highly critical reflective manner

Good

(B+, B) Good ability to consider and evaluate one' s own research experience in a critically reflective manner

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Satisfactory ability to consider and evaluate one' s own research experience in a reasonably critical reflective manner

Failure

(F) Poor ability to consider and evaluate one' s own research experience and in a non-critical reflective manner

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

Ability to make valid contribution to the group research project

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent ability to make valid contribution to the group research project

Good

(B+, B) Good ability to make valid contribution to the group research project

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Satisfactory ability to make valid contribution to the group research project

Failure

(F) Poor ability to make valid contribution to the group research project

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Supervised group project; literature review; problem identification; qualitative and quantitative research methods; research and writing.

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

	Title
1	Roberts, C.M. (2004) <i>The Dissertation Journey: A Practical and Comprehensive Guide to Planning Writing and Defending your Dissertation</i> . Thousand Oaks: Corwin Press.
2	Cooley, L. & Lewkowicz, J. (2003) <i>Dissertation Writing in Practice: Turning Ideas into Text</i> . Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.
3	Graziano, A.M. & Raulin M.L. (2014) <i>Research Methods: A Process of Inquiry (8th Edition)</i> . Harlow: Pearson Education.
4	Jackson S.L. (2012) <i>Research Methods and Statistics: A Critical Thinking Approach (4th Edition)</i> . Melbourne: Wadsworth Cengage Learning.
5	Watson G. (1987) <i>Writing a Thesis: A Guide to Long Essays and Dissertations</i> . London: Longman.
6	Giltrow J. (2002) <i>Academic Writing: Writing and Reading in the Disciplines (3rd Edition)</i> . Peterborough: Broadview Press.
7	Slade C. (2003) <i>Form and Style: Research Papers Reports Theses (12th Edition)</i> . Boston: Houghton Mifflin.
8	Riedling A.M. (2002) <i>Learning to Learn: A Guide to Information Literacy</i> . New York: Neal-Schuman.
9	Preece R.A. (1994) <i>Starting Research: An Introduction to Academic Research and Dissertation Writing</i> . London: Pinter.
10	Meloy J.M. (2001) <i>Writing the Qualitative Dissertation: Understanding by Doing (2nd Edition)</i> . Mahwah: L. Erlbaum Associates.
11	Garson, G.D. (2002) <i>Guide to Writing Empirical Papers, Theses, and Dissertations</i> . New York: Marcel Dekker.

Additional Readings

	Title
1	Johnson, G. (2007) <i>Research Methods for Public Administrators</i> . Westport, CT: Quorum Books.
2	The University of Hong Kong (n.d.) What is Plagiarism? Available at website http://www.rss.hku.hk/plagiarism/ (accessed on 16 July 2017).
3	City University of Hong Kong (n.d.) Academic Honesty: Fundamental Principles for Knowledge Discovery and Innovation. Available at website http://www6.cityu.edu.hk/ah/ (accessed on 16 July 2017).