

SEE8300: SPECIAL TOPICS IN ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Special Topics in Energy and Environment

Subject Code

SEE - School of Energy and Environment

Course Number

8300

Academic Unit

School of Energy and Environment (E2)

College/School

School of Energy and Environment (E2)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

R8 - Research 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 provides training for environmental and energy doctoral students and presents them with an opportunity to study in-depth a topic parallel to their thesis, but must be new and not simply repeating the subject of the PhD. For example a student may choose to learn a programming language, study a particular statistical methodology, learn about the principles of instrumentation, discover underlying chemical, biological, physical principles of relevance to their work or read literature in a field parallel, a broader all-encompassing part of the entire discipline or a field adjunct to the thesis topic, perhaps exploring social or cultural contexts of their work. This is not an exclusive list, but any doubts should be resolved with the course convenor prior to commencement. The short proposal for work in the area of study must submit the course convenor who will expect the student to defend the proposal in a 10-15 minute meeting. The reading and study plan needs to be approved by the examining panel at the start of the course. The examining panel will consist of the supervisor and another academic, probably drawn from the School, but could be from any HK university. Delays in starting or gathering the examination panel may mean the occasional “incomplete” and need to be declared.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	To acquire the ability to plan a reading course in the selected topic, up to an expert level of knowledge, through self-study reflective practice and guidance by the examining panel.	25	x		
2	To demonstrate an ability to understand the latest innovations and ideas at the cutting edge of knowledge, through literature studies, simulation, desk calculations, computer programs etc as appropriate.	35		x	
3	To be able to report and explain the selected area of knowledge, through written and oral means to the examining panel.	40		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	Writing/defending a brief proposal	1	
2	Planning reading	1	
3	Critical reading of the literature	1, 2	
4	Report writing and reflection	2, 3	

5		Defending the study outcomes	2, 3	
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Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

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

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Minimum Continuous Assessment Passing Requirement (%)

0

Minimum Examination Passing Requirement (%)

0

Additional Information for ATs

Self-taught guided by a panel of two that includes supervisor. Students undertaking PhD study, but not in final year. As this is a pass-fail course students must pass both assessment tasks

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

Report

Criterion

Student has written a clear report that addresses the breadth of the subject material with a degree of comprehensiveness and no major gaps.

Pass (P)

(P) Satisfactory report

Failure (F)

(F) Fails to write a satisfactory report.

Assessment Task

Presentation

Criterion

Student gives a well-structured presentation that draws attention to key issues within the subject covered in the course reading.

Pass (P)

(P) Makes a well-structured presentation

Failure (F)

(F) Fails to give a well-structured presentation

Assessment Task

Oral Presentation

Criterion

Student is able to answer questions about the work that they have done in the course.

Pass (P)

(P) Adequate answers to the questions

Failure (F)

(F) Inadequate answers to the questions

Additional Information for AR

*As this is a pass-fail students must pass both assessment tasks

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Nil

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Nil

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Entirely set by student