

City University of Hong Kong

Information on a Course

offered by Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering
with effect from Semester A in 2014/2015

Part I

Course Title:	Doctoral Thesis
Course Code:	CA8008D
Course Duration:	Normal duration is 6 semesters (i.e., Sem A and Sem B in 3 academic years). The course duration can be extended on a semester basis to a maximum of 10 semesters (i.e., Sem A and B in 5 academic years) provided that the status of the student is still active in the EngD (CA) programme.) (Some courses offered in Summer Term may start a few weeks earlier than the normal University schedule. Please check the teaching schedules with CLs before registering for the courses.)
Credit Units:	48
Level:	D8
Medium of Instruction:	English
Prerequisites:	Approval of Formal Thesis Proposal submitted by the student to the Programme Management Team before the end of the preceding semester is required to start the course.
Precursor:	Nil
Equivalent Courses:	BC8008D Doctoral Thesis
Exclusive Courses:	Nil

Part II

1. Course Aims:

The thesis topic shall be relevant to the profession in which the student works with, the relevancy being determined by the department. The thesis would help students to develop innovative thinking in tackling strategic, innovative industrial projects meeting the specific needs of industry. The thesis should demonstrate the candidate's ability for critical appreciation of current knowledge in the field of study, application of the knowledge to the solution of one or more industrially relevant problems in a theoretically rigorous manner and thus contributing in an original or innovative fashion to the field of study or practice.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs):

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

No.	CILOs	Weighting (if applicable)
1.	Discover and identify suitable industrial problems and formulate relevant and substantiated project methodology;	---
2.	Apply critically the management of a substantial programme of individual and independent research and development work;	---
3.	Apply the techniques of searching, selection and critical assessment on the literatures and other materials relevant to the chosen topic;	---
4.	Apply appropriate theories and techniques to the chosen topic; and	---
5.	Formulate a presentation to present the outcome of the work in a logically, precisely and coherently written doctoral thesis.	---

3. Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs):

Semester Hours: - hours per week

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

The course falls under the Regulations Governing Professional Doctorate Programme. The normal duration of the course is three years (6 semesters), and the thesis must be submitted within the course duration. The maximum duration of the course is 5 years (10 semesters), after which no further extension will be permitted. The course duration can be extended on a semester basis provided that the status of the student is still active in the EngD Programme. Dissertation-type courses may CANNOT be repeated. The Thesis could either be a specific company-based project or an industry-based project. The students should aim through their Thesis effort and contribution to deepen understanding of chosen topics and demonstrate how his/her findings lead to improvements. The thesis must exhibit more than one of the following characteristics: displays a high level of intellectual accomplishment and innovation makes a substantial contribution to the candidate's business or organization makes a substantial contribution to the professional discipline could be published in a mainstream professional or research journal.

CILO No.	TLAs	Total Hours (if applicable)
CILO 1	Discussion with supervisor, any other TLAs formulated by the candidate and the supervisor	120
CILO 2	Discussion with supervisor, any other TLAs formulated by the candidate and the supervisor	120
CILO 3	Discussion with supervisor, any other TLAs formulated by the candidate and the supervisor	120
CILO 4	Discussion with supervisor, any other TLAs formulated by the candidate and the supervisor	120
CILO 5	Discussion with supervisor, presentation practice, any other TLAs formulated by the candidate and the supervisor	144

4. Assessment Tasks/Activities:

Coursework: 100%

Examination: 0%

The examination procedure for EngD Thesis follows the Regulations Governing Professional Doctorate Programme. This is a Dissertation-type course and CANNOT be repeated. The student has to submit Annual Progress Report towards the end of each academic year until the thesis is submitted. The course may be terminated if the Annual Progress Report is assessed to be unsatisfactory.

CILO No.	Type of assessment tasks/activities	Weighting (if applicable)	Remarks
CILO 1	Proposal submission, assessment by supervisor and presentation	---	Nil
CILO 2	Synopsis submission, assessment by supervisor and presentation	---	Nil
CILO 3	Interim submission, assessment by supervisor and presentation	---	Nil

CILO 4	Interim submission, assessment by supervisor and presentation	---	Nil
CILO 5	Final thesis submission, presentation and oral examination	---	Nil

5. Grading of Student Achievement:

Grading Pattern:

Pass/Fail

Part III

Keyword Syllabus:

Independent thinking and research. Problem identification, investigation and solving. Subject matter expertise. Application of theory and techniques.

Recommended Reading:

- **Texts:**
 1. Anderson, J and Millicent, P. (2001), "Assignment and Thesis writing", 4th Edition, Wiley, Brisbane, Australia.
 2. Fellows, R. and Liu, A.M.M. (1997), "Research Methods for Construction", 1st Edition, Blackwell Science Ltd., London, U.K.
 3. Mauch, J.E. and Birch, J. W. (1998) "Guide to the Successful Thesis and Dissertation: A Handbook for Students and Faculty", 4th Edition, Publisher: M. Dekker, New York.
 4. Naoum, S.G.(1998), "Dissertation research and writing for construction students", Butterworth-Heinemann, Oxford, U.K.
 5. Preece Roy (1994), "Starting Research: An Introduction to Academic Research and Dissertation Writing", Printer Publishers, London.
 6. Swernam, Derek (2000), "Writing your dissertation: how to plan, prepare and present successful work", How to Books Oxford Publishers, U.K.
 - **Online Resources:**
 1. Nil
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