

LW8705D: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Research Methodology

Subject Code

LW - Law

Course Number

8705D

Academic Unit

School of Law (FL)

College/School

School of Law (FL)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

D8 - Professional Doctorate

Medium of Instruction

Other Languages

Other Languages for Medium of Instruction

Chinese (Putonghua) supplemented by English

Medium of Assessment

Chinese

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course aims to develop the students' ability to conduct research at an advanced level. The skills taught will have a wide application to both scholarly inquiry and problem solving generally.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Acquire and demonstrate various kinds of research skills which are essential for conducting legal research at an advanced level.		x	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	1	A combination of direct instruction, supervision and independent study. Individual research and study are emphasized.	1	It will be taught intensively in two months with an equivalent of 6 hrs per week over 13 weeks.

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs		CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("-" for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	A research proposal of 6,000 words	1	60	The use of Generative AI tools is not allowed.	No
2	Class presentation	1	40	The use of Generative AI tools is not allowed.	No

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Minimum Continuous Assessment Passing Requirement (%)

0

Minimum Examination Passing Requirement (%)

0

Additional Information for ATs

Students will also be entitled to individual consultation with the lecturer(s) to discuss their own research topics. During individual consultation, the lecturer will take the opportunity to inquire as to progress or comment upon performance and will offer advice and guidance to the students as required.

Students will be required to submit a draft research plan to the lecturer(s) for discussion. The plan should set out in detail a strategy for pursuing a research project, from the identification of the objectives to the collection of materials and data and the presentation of the project in the form of a written dissertation.

The assessment criteria are as follows:

- adequate selection of topic;
- adequate formulation of aims and objectives of research including reasons for the selection of the topic, why it is worthy of study, ethical, moral or social question;
- procedure including design of proposed research;
- data collection and analysis methods, if any
- literature review and bibliography;
- timetable.

Students are required to attend at least 70% of the classes (lectures, seminars, presentations). If a student does not meet this requirement, he/she may be disqualified for assessment.

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

A research proposal of 6,000 words (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Ability to explain and present in detail a chosen topic

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) High

Good

(B+, B, B-) Significant

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Moderate

Marginal

(D) Basic

Failure

(F) Marginal levels

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

Ability to explain and present in detail a chosen topic

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) High

Good

(B+, B, B-) Significant

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Moderate

Marginal

(D) Basic

Failure

(F) Marginal levels

Assessment Task

A research proposal of 6,000 words (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Ability to explain and present in detail a chosen topic

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) High

Good

(B+, B) Significant

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Moderate

Failure

(F) Marginal levels

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

Ability to explain and present in detail a chosen topic

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) High

Good

(B+, B) Significant

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Moderate

Failure

(F) Marginal levels

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

- Introduction: Use of the Law Library and the methodology of library-based legal research
- Skills in identifying potential research topics in various areas of laws
- Comparative legal research skills and methods
- Law and society legal research skills and methods
- Law and politics legal research skills and methods in private law
- Preparation of research proposal

Reading List

Additional Readings

Title	
1	To be supplied at the beginning of the course.