

SS5798B: DISSERTATION

Effective Term

Semester B 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Dissertation

Subject Code

SS - Social and Behavioural Sciences

Course Number

5798B

Academic Unit

Social and Behavioural Sciences (SS)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

Two Semesters

Credit Units

0-6

Level

P5, P6 - Postgraduate Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

12 credits in the program including
SS5783 Psychological Research Design and Analysis

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

SS5798

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

The aim of this course is to enable students to demonstrate their ability to develop, plan and execute psychological research. It is designed to foster independent thinking and to encourage academic debate on significant issues and principles of psychological research via individual supervision.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	design and carry out psychological research under supervision;	30	x	x	x
2	integrate knowledge of psychological theories and research skills into the planning, design and implementation of their research; and	40	x	x	x
3	communicate effectively findings of psychological research in a scientific manner.	30	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	Supervision Students learn to integrate knowledge in psychological theories and research to formulate their own research questions/hypotheses via individual supervision sessions. In addition, students conducting similar research will meet with their supervisor in a group to report progress of their research and discuss issues of common concern.	1, 2, 3	

2	Consultation sessions	Consultations on methodological, statistical and other technical issues will be provided by instructors/tutors. These sessions are expected to provide students with the guidance that enable them to process, analyze and interpret findings of their research in the most effective and accurate manner	1, 2	
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Additional Information for LTAs

Note:

SS5798 and SS5798B are equivalent courses. The courses are designated for students in different modes of study admitted in 2021-22 or before. These courses cannot be repeated. Once started, switching between SS5798 and SS5798B is not allowed regardless of the changes in the mode of study.

SS5798 will only be offered to students of the part-time/combined study mode admitted in 2021-22 or before. The normal duration of the course is 2 semesters (Semester A & Semester B). The maximum extension duration of the course is 3 semesters (Summer term, Semester A & Semester B). After which no further extension is permitted. Each semester is charged 3 credits and summer term is charged 1 credit.

SS5798B will only be offered to students admitted in 2022-23 or after. The normal duration of the course is 2 semesters (Semester B & Summer). The maximum extension duration of the course is 1 semester (Semester A). After which no further extension is permitted. Each semester is charged 3 credits.

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

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

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Additional Information for ATs

Permissible AI usage for the Dissertation is strictly limited to: (1) fine-tuning research questions, (2) drafting/refining an outline to organize thoughts, (3) finding information on the topic, and (4) checking grammar and style. Crucially, all research directions and hypotheses must be the student's original work; data interpretation and the subsequent discussion must reflect the student's own intellectual effort. Students must adhere to the APA guidelines for disclosing AI assistance. Furthermore, students are required to retain all interaction logs, including prompts and chat histories, and must provide this evidence upon request to verify that the technology was used within these defined parameters.

Assessment Rubrics (AR)

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

Ability to develop, plan and execute psychological research. Effective communication of the findings.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Strong evidence for the ability to develop, plan and execute psychological research. Strong evidence for effective communication of the findings.

Good

(B+, B, B-) Good evidence for the ability to develop, plan and execute psychological research. Good evidence for effective communication of the findings.

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Fair evidence for the ability to develop, plan and execute psychological research. Fair evidence for effective communication of the findings.

Marginal

(D) Limited evidence for the ability to develop, plan and execute psychological research. Limited evidence for effective communication of the findings.

Failure

(F) Insufficient evidence for the ability to develop, plan and execute psychological research. Insufficient evidence for effective communication of the findings.

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

Ability to develop, plan and execute psychological research. Effective communication of the findings.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Strong evidence for the ability to develop, plan and execute psychological research. Strong evidence for effective communication of the findings.

Good

(B+, B) Good evidence for the ability to develop, plan and execute psychological research. Good evidence for effective communication of the findings.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Fair or limited evidence for the ability to develop, plan and execute psychological research. Fair evidence for effective communication of the findings.

Failure

(F) Insufficient evidence for the ability to develop, plan and execute psychological research. Insufficient evidence for effective communication of the findings.

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

There is no formal syllabus but the procedure will involve:

- Determination of topic areas for research.
- Reading assignment, development and preparation of a research proposal on a topic in line with the research interest of a supervisor.
- Data gathering and analysis.
- Preparation and presentation of the research report.

Reading List**Compulsory Readings**

Title	
1	Nil

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Christensen, L. B. (2004). Experimental methodology (9th ed.). Boston, MA: Allyn & Bacon.
2	Cohen, B. H. (2001). Explaining psychological statistics (2nd ed.). New York: John Wiley & Sons.
3	Rosenthal, R., & Rosnow, R. L. (2008). Essentials of behavioral research: Methods and data analysis (3rd ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill.