

SS8802: DIRECTED STUDY ON RESEARCH METHODS

Effective Term

Semester B 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Directed Study on Research Methods

Subject Code

SS - Social and Behavioural Sciences

Course Number

8802

Academic Unit

Social and Behavioural Sciences (SS)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

2

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

The aim of the course is to equip research degree students with knowledge and competence in selected research methodologies.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	describe the background knowledge including history and development of specific methods relevant to their research;	10	x		
2	identify research designs and the rationale of these designs in respect of their research;	20	x		
3	critically examine strengths and limitations of different methods;	30	x	x	
4	apply relevant methodologies and strategies in their research.	40	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	Individual Consultation	1, 2, 3, 4	
2	Report Writing	1, 2, 3, 4	
3	Report Presentation	1, 2, 3, 4	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs		CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Short Essays	1, 2, 3, 4	40	editing	Yes
2	Extended Essay	1, 2, 3, 4	60	editing	Yes

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Additional Information for ATs

AT1: Short Essays (40%)

Students are required to write two short essays (each around 1,000 words).

AT2: Extended Essay (60%)

Students are required to write one extended essay of around 3,000 words.

Assessment Rubrics (AR)

Assessment Task

1. Short essays (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Capability to understand and examine critically, apply innovatively the theories and findings from empirical research.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Strong evidence for the capability to understand and examine critically, apply innovatively the theories and empirical research.

Good

(B+, B, B-) Good evidence for the capability to understand and examine critically, apply innovatively the theories and empirical research.

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Fair evidence for the capability to understand and examine critically, apply innovatively the theories and empirical research.

Marginal

(D) Limited evidence for the capability to understand and examine critically, apply innovatively the theories and empirical research.

Failure

(F) Insufficient evidence for the capability to understand and examine critically, apply innovatively the theories and empirical research.

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

Capability to understand and examine critically, apply innovatively the theories and findings from empirical research.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Strong evidence for the capability to understand and examine critically, apply innovatively the theories and empirical research.

Good

(B+, B, B-) Good evidence for the capability to understand and examine critically, apply innovatively the theories and empirical research.

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Fair evidence for the capability to understand and examine critically, apply innovatively the theories and empirical research.

Marginal

(D) Limited evidence for the capability to understand and examine critically, apply innovatively the theories and empirical research.

Failure

(F) Insufficient evidence for the capability to understand and examine critically, apply innovatively the theories and empirical research.

Assessment Task

1. Short essays (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Capability to understand and examine critically, apply innovatively the theories and findings from empirical research.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Strong evidence for the capability to understand and examine critically, apply innovatively the theories and empirical research.

Good

(B+, B) Good evidence for the capability to understand and examine critically, apply innovatively the theories and empirical research.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Fair to limited evidence for the capability to understand and examine critically, apply innovatively the theories and empirical research.

Failure

(F) Insufficient evidence for the capability to understand and examine critically, apply innovatively the theories and empirical research.

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

Capability to understand and examine critically, apply innovatively the theories and findings from empirical research.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Strong evidence for the capability to understand and examine critically, apply innovatively the theories and empirical research.

Good

(B+, B) Good evidence for the capability to understand and examine critically, apply innovatively the theories and empirical research.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Fair to limited evidence for the capability to understand and examine critically, apply innovatively the theories and empirical research.

Failure

(F) Insufficient evidence for the capability to understand and examine critically, apply innovatively the theories and empirical research.

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

The syllabus is an individualized one, to be complied by the Supervisor, in consultation with the students. Members of the Qualifying panel should be consulted for their input.

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	A list of required readings should be provided by the Supervisor.

Additional Readings

Title	
1	n/a