

SS8803: DIRECTED STUDY IN RESEARCH

Effective Term

Semester B 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Directed Study in Research

Subject Code

SS - Social and Behavioural Sciences

Course Number

8803

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 enable students to engage in intensive studies of theories and research related to their proposed area of study but not their specific research topic.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	appraise exemplary works in research using established benchmarks;	50	x		
2	evaluate theories and methods in their selected area of study.	50	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	Consultation and Presentation		1, 2	
2	Essay Writing		1, 2	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs		CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Consultation and Presentation	1, 2	20	-	No
2	Essay Writing	1, 2	80	editing	Yes

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Additional Information for ATs

AT1: Consultation and Presentation (20%)

While students are expected to undertake independent studies, regular consultations with and presentation to the supervisor are necessary to monitor the progress and the learning effort.

AT2: Essay and Writing (80%)

Students are required to write two extended essays of around 3,000 words each, one in the middle of the semester, and another at the end of the semester. The papers will be marked by the supervisor.

Assessment Rubrics (AR)

Assessment Task

1. Consultation and Presentation (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 through verbal presentation.

Excellent

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

Good

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

Fair

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

Marginal

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

Failure

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

Assessment Task

2. Essay writing (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 through academic writing.

Excellent

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

Good

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

Fair

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

Marginal

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

Failure

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

Assessment Task

1. Consultation and Presentation (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 through verbal presentation.

Excellent

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

Good

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

Marginal

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

Failure

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

Assessment Task

2. Essay writing (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 through academic writing.

Excellent

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

Good

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

Marginal

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

Failure

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

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