

City University of Hong Kong

Information on a Course offered by Department of Asian and International Studies with effect from Semester A in 2014-2015

Part I

Course Title:	<u>Directed Research Project</u>
Course Code:	<u>AIS 4155</u>
Course Duration:	<u>One Semester</u>
Credit Units:	<u>3</u>
Level:	<u>B4</u>
Medium of Instruction:	<u>English</u>
Prerequisites: (Course Code and Title)	<u>3.3 CGPA</u>
Precursors: (Course Code and Title)	<u>Nil</u>
Equivalent Courses: (Course Code and Title)	<u>Nil</u>
Exclusive Courses: (Course Code and Title)	<u>Nil</u>

Part II

1. Abstract

In this course, students design and execute a semester-long individual or group research project. Under close supervision of a faculty member, students will work on defining research questions and collecting data to answer the questions. The course will enhance the intellectual capacity of students in conducting independent research and identifying appropriate methods in investigating social issues, which is a knowledge-discovering process. Enrolment is limited to students with a 3.3 GPA or higher. Exchange students are eligible to enrol in this course. Their transcript must demonstrate the equivalent of a B+ average in their national education system. Groups would comprise 3-5 students.

2. Course Aims

This course aims to guide students in the planning, research, and write-up of a substantial independent research project. The research topic will be chosen by the student(s) in consultation with their supervisor and will pertain to some theme relevant to Asian and International Studies. The research design will be geared to the specific nature of the

subject and the research question, but will employ methods students will have learned in their previous courses.

The ability to conduct independent social research is an essential skill. Upon completion of this course, students will be better able to design and carry out major research projects, in academic or a variety of professional settings.

3. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

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

No.	CILOs	Weighting (if applicable)
1	Learn the skills for planning a semester-long research project	
2	Implement a research plan using appropriate methods	
3	Apply multi-disciplinary critical and innovative thinking to solve research problems	
4	Present proposals and research results effectively	
5	Produce a well-organized and clearly argued final paper	

4. Teaching and learning Activities (TLAs)

(designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs)

ILO No	TLAs	Hours/week (if applicable)
1-5	Individual or group consultations with the supervisor	
1-5	Reading and research	
1-5	Preparation of research proposal	
1-5	Presentation of research results in a final paper	

5. Assessment Tasks/Activities

(designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs)

Type of Assessment Tasks/Activities	Weighting	ILOs to be addressed	Remarks
Project proposal (500 words)	20%	1-4	
Final paper (5,000 words for individual papers; 8,000 words or more for groups)	80%	1-5	

6. Grading of Student Achievement: Refer to Grading of Courses in the Academic Regulations

* **A+/A/A-**: an excellent project; evidence that the author is capable of postgraduate studies in Asian or International Studies or a related discipline; very good mastery of the methods and concepts used, and very good documentation and presentation. **A-**: on the edge of this category, but still very good.

B+: very good: nearly at A- level, just enough flaws or lack of excellence to miss A-. **B**: a solid project with reasonably good research, analysis, documentation, and presentation.

B- (B minus): not quite at the 'good' level, but still a reasonable level of research and analysis.

C+/C/C-: documentation, analysis, writing, use of concepts, referencing, and research effort are mostly adequate for a passing grade, but with enough flaws and shortcomings that it cannot be judged to be 'good' or 'very good'.

D: barely a pass. Many serious flaws and shortcomings in the research and presentation of results.

F: does not demonstrate the minimum research effort and documentation; or: substantial plagiarism.

Part III

Keyword Syllabus:

Directed research, presentation of proposal, literature review, qualitative and/or quantitative methods, policy relevance of results, presentation of data, presentation of results.

Recommended Reading:

Substantive readings will be selected according to the topic and will be arranged in consultation between student(s) and supervisors.