

City University of Hong Kong

Information on a Course offered by Department of Asian and International Studies with effect from Semester A in 2011/ 2012

Part I

Course Title: Directed Research Project

Course Code: AIS4051

Course Duration: Two Semesters

Credit Units: 6

Level: B4

Medium of Instruction: English

Prerequisites: *(Course Code and Title)* AIS2012; AIS3012

Precursors: *(Course Code and Title)* Nil

Equivalent Courses: *(Course Code and Title)* AIS4060 Directed Research Project

Exclusive Courses: *(Course Code and Title)* Nil

Part II

1. 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 in consultation with their supervisor and will pertain to some theme in the social scientific study of East and Southeast Asia. The research design will be fitted to the specific nature of the research and the research question, but will employ research methods students will have learned in their previous courses.

A major subsidiary aim of this course is to train students in the preparation of an effective research proposal, which is a recognized requirement for effective social research. The first semester of this course involves a classroom component that guides students through major steps in preparing their research proposal. Drawing on materials presented in these classroom sessions, students will complete key project tasks and report and discuss their progress on these tasks with their individual project supervisor.

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.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

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

No.	CILOs	Weighting (if applicable)
1.	Plan a substantial research project;	
2	Set and meet internal project deadlines	
3.	Produce a written research proposal	
4	Implement a research plan using appropriate methods;	
5	Present results effectively through appropriate narrative strategies and illustrations (e.g. , as well as graphs, tables, charts);	
6.	Present research proposal and findings orally ;	
7.	Produce a well-organized and impressive final report.	

3. Teaching and learning Activities (TLAs)

(designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs)

ILO No	TLAs	Hours/week (if applicable)
CILO 1-7	Compulsory final year project seminar	Five 2-hour seminars
CILO 1- 5, 7	Individual consultations	
CILO 2-4	Reading and Research	
CILO 1-3	Preparation of research proposal	
CILO 3-7	Presentation of research proposal and results	

4. Assessment Tasks/Activities

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

Type of Assessment Tasks/Activities	Weighting	ILOs to be addressed	Remarks
Seminar participation, proposal presentation	10%	1-6	
Written project proposal	30%	1-3; 6	
Project report & oral presentation	60%	1-2; 4-7	

5. 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 sociology 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, field research, quantitative and qualitative methods, policy relevance of results, primary and secondary data, presentation of data, presentation of results.

Recommended Reading:

Text(s):

A Project Guide, to be distributed and discussed at the course orientation, provides guidelines on format and presentation. Substantive readings depend on the topic, and are arranged or assigned, discussed, and integrated into appropriate chapters of the Final Year Project as discussed with the supervisor. Students typically read intensively for most of Semester A while planning and developing the project, and read selectively for further comparison and analysis in Semester B. In semester A, the submission and oral presentation of the research proposal is a key output.