

SS4595: INDEPENDENT STUDY IN APPLIED SOCIOLOGY

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Independent Study in Applied Sociology

Subject Code

SS - Social and Behavioural Sciences

Course Number

4595

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

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

(SS2027 Social Statistics and Research Methods or SS2033 Research Methods for Behavioural Sciences or SS2034 Research Methods in Social Sciences: Quantitative and Qualitative Methods) and (SS3423 Advanced Applied Quantitative Research Methods or SS3427 Professional Internship in Applied Sociology)

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course aims to enable students to consolidate their past work experience during internship and their ability to identify issues/problems that are amendable to sociological analyses. Under the guidance of a supervisor, students are also required to define relevant sociological theories in order to organize the issues/problems identified in an independent study, and to formulate theoretically; formed creative solutions.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

	CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Identify issues/problems in organizations or society amendable to sociological analyses;	25	x		
2	Define and organize relevant sociological theories/traditions in terms of a comprehensive literature review in relation to the issues/problems concerned;	25	x	x	
3	Collect data, analyze results, and describe findings effectively and critically; and	25	x	x	x
4	Apply recommendations or/and creative solutions to the issues/problems under investigation.	25	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	LTA1: Group Discussion	Group Discussion sections are provided to students to help them identify suitable topics and methodologies for the project. These sections may provide a peer-learning platform for students to share their learning experience and discuss their questions. Students are required to give a presentation at the end of the course to present their findings and recommendations.	1, 2	
2	LTA2: Individual supervision	Each student has regular meetings with his/her supervisor. In the meeting, the supervisor discusses with the student on his/her progress, issues and findings, and offer advice to him/her.	1, 2, 3, 4	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?	
1	AT1: Final Report	1, 2, 3, 4	85	Allow AI to 1) conduct proof editing; 2) generate initial ideas 3) conduct preliminary analyses	Yes
2	AT2: Proposal	2	15	Allow AI to 1) conduct proof editing; 2) generate initial ideas 3) conduct preliminary analyses	Yes

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)

Assessment Task

1. Final Report

Criterion

Application of relevant concepts and literature; collecting appropriate data; and having appropriate discussions of findings

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Poor

Assessment Task

2. Presentation

Criterion

Demonstration of learning in sharp and skilful ways

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Poor

Assessment Task

3. Proposal

Criterion

Ability to identify key concepts and appropriate methodology

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Poor

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Nil

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Oliver, Paul. (2013) Writing Your Thesis. 3rd Edition. London: Sage.
2	Joyner, Randy L.; Rouse William A.; & Glatthorn, Allan A. (2013). Writing the Winning Thesis or Dissertation: A Step-by-Step Guide. 3rd Edition. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press.
3	Miller, Delbert C. & Salkind, Neil J. (2002). Handbook of Research Design and Social Measurement. 6th Edition. Thousand Oaks, London, & New Delhi: Sage Publications.
4	Hart, Chris. (1998). Doing a Literature Review: Releasing the Social Science Research Imagination. London: Sage.

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Nil