City University of Hong Kong Course Syllabus

offered by Department of English with effect from Semester A 2023/24

Part I Course Overv	view
Course Title:	Self-Directed Research in English Studies
Course Code:	EN8016
Course Duration:	1 semester
Credit Units:	3
Level:	R8
	☐ Arts and Humanities ☐ Study of Societies, Social and Business Organisations
Proposed Area: (for GE courses only)	Science and Technology
Medium of Instruction:	English
Medium of Assessment:	English
Prerequisites: (Course Code and Title)	EN8930 Independent Studies and EN8015/EN6471 Research Methods in English Studies
Precursors: (Course Code and Title)	Nil
Equivalent Courses : (Course Code and Title)	Nil
Exclusive Courses: (Course Code and Title)	Nil

Part II Course Details

1. Abstract

(A 150-word description about the course)

The objective of this course is to develop students' academic skills and expertise to carry out independent research and to produce publishable scholarly texts..

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

(CILOs state what the student is expected to be able to do at the end of the course according to a given standard of performance.)

No.	CILOs	Weighting*	Disco	very-	
		(if	enrich	ed	
		applicable)	curric	ulum re	elated
			learnii	ng outc	omes
			(pleas	e tick v	where
			approp	oriate)	
			A1	A2	A3
1.	Design, conduct, and manage a substantial piece of		X	x	X
	individual research work relevant to the student's PhD area.				
2.	Critically evaluate literature relevant to the student's PhD		X	X	X
	area.				
3.	Apply suitable research methods to conduct the chosen research.		X	X	X
4.	Communicate the results of the research systematically and		X	X	X
	effectively in the form of a research paper.				
* If w	reighting is assigned to CILOs, they should add up to 100%.	100%			•

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 self-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.

3. Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)

(TLAs designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs.)

TLA	Brief Description	CIL	O No	•		hours per week
		1	2	3	4	(if applicable)

Consultation,	Through independent research and working	X	X	X	X	
Research	with a designated supervisor, students conduct					
Investigation,	investigations into the chosen topic and work					
and Research	on the writing of a full research paper.					
Paper Writing						

4. Assessment Tasks/Activities (ATs)

(ATs are designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs.)

Assessment Tasks/Activities	CILO		Weighting *	Remarks			
	1	2	3	4	-		
Full research paper Students write up a full research paper of about 5000 – 10,000 words (including references and appendices) reporting on the results of their research.	x	X	X	X		100%	
* The weightings should add up to 100%.						100%	

^{*} The weightings should add up to 100%.

5. Assessment Rubrics

(Grading of student achievements is based on student performance in assessment tasks/activities with the following rubrics.)

Applicable to students admitted in or after Semester A 2022/2023

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B)	Marginal (B-, C+, C)	Failure (F)
Individual Research Essay	Demonstration of academic knowledge and skills in writing a full research paper	Students demonstrate strong evidence of original thinking and a superior grasp of subject matter. They display outstanding analytic and synthetic abilities in their description of the research undertaken. There is a very clearly identified and potentially significant contribution to knowledge in the topic area. They also consistently maintain a high degree of grammatical accuracy and exhibit a very effective organization of information in the research paper.	Students demonstrate good evidence of original thinking and a good grasp of subject matter. They display good analytic and synthetic abilities in their description of the research undertaken. There is a clearly identified and potentially significant contribution to knowledge in the topic area. They also consistently maintain a good degree of grammatical accuracy and exhibit an effective organization of information in the research paper.	Students demonstrate sufficient understanding with subject matter to enable them to progress with their description of the research undertaken. They display some analytic and synthetic abilities in their description. They communicate with reasonable accuracy and exhibit an intelligible organization of information in their description.	Students demonstrate little evidence of familiarity with subject matter. They include irrelevant literature and display noticeable weaknesses in critical and analytic skills. They show limited control of only a few simple grammatical structures and sentence patterns in their description.

Applicable to students admitted before Semester A 2022/2023

Assessment	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good	(B+, B, B-)	Fair (C+, C, C-)	Marginal (D)	Failure (F)
Task							

Individual	Demonstration of	Students demonstrate	Students demonstrate	Students demonstrate	Students	Students demonstrate
Research	academic knowledge	strong evidence of	good evidence of	sufficient	demonstrate	little evidence of
Essay	and skills in writing a	original thinking and	original thinking and a	understanding of	sufficient	familiarity with
	full research paper	a superior grasp of	good grasp of subject	subject matter to	familiarity with	subject matter. They
		subject matter. They	matter. They display	enable them to	subject matter to	include irrelevant
		display outstanding	good analytic and	progress with their	enable them to	literature and display
		analytic and synthetic	, ,	description of the	progress with their	noticeable
		abilities in their	their description of the	research undertaken.	description of the	weaknesses in critical
		description of the	research undertaken.	They display	research	and analytic skills.
		research undertaken.	There is a clearly	sufficient analytic and	undertaken. They	They show limited
		There is a very	identified and	synthetic abilities in	display weak	control of only a few
		clearly identified and	potentially significant	their description. They	analytic and	simple grammatical
		potentially significant	contribution to	also communicate	synthetic abilities	structures and
		contribution to	knowledge in the topic	with reasonable	in their description.	sentence patterns in
		knowledge in the	area. They also	accuracy and exhibit	They can use	their description.
		topic area. They also	consistently maintain a	an intelligible	simple structures	1
		consistently maintain	good degree of	organization of	correctly but there	
		a high degree of	grammatical accuracy	information in their	are often	
		grammatical accuracy	and exhibit an	description.	noticeable	
		and exhibit a very	effective organization	1	grammatical	
		effective organization	of information in the		anomalies.	
		of information in the	research paper.			
		research paper.				

Part III Other Information (more details can be provided separately in the teaching plan)

1. Keyword Syllabus

(An indication of the key topics of the course.)

There is no specified syllabus for the course. Students are required to work with a designated supervisor, who will give them guidance regarding the implementation of the research and the write-up of the research paper.

2. Reading List

2.1 Compulsory Readings

(Compulsory readings can include books, book chapters, or journal/magazine articles. There are also collections of e-books, e-journals available from the CityU Library.)

There is no specified reading list. Students are expected to search for relevant literature independently.

2.2 Additional Readings

(Additional references for students to learn to expand their knowledge about the subject.)