

Course Title	:	Policy Studies Project
Course Code	:	DPS710
Recommended Study Year	:	Doctor of Policy Studies Year 3
No. of Credits/Term	:	Terms 1 and 2
Mode of Tuition	:	Individual Supervision
Class Contact Hours	:	3 hours per week
Category	:	Required
Discipline	:	Social Science
Prerequisite(s)	:	Completion of Four Core Courses
Co-requisite(s)	:	N/A
Exclusion(s)	:	N/A
Exemption Requirement(s)	:	N/A

Brief Course Description

The policy related project offers students an opportunity to propose, formulate and conduct an independent research at the doctoral level by applying research problem in the context of their professional practice.

Aims

The policy studies project aims to enable students to demonstrate a broad understanding of the role of research in professional practice and the mastery of subject knowledge in their professional field. In particular, the policy studies project aims to:

1. Deepen students' critical understanding of the literature, theories, methodologies and debates of the related policy areas;
2. Equip students with good research skills, ethics and practices;
3. Demonstrate students' good presentation and communication skills; and
4. Enhance students' effective work practices and collaborative skills.

Learning Outcomes (LOs)

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Identify one social policy problem and formulate in an appropriate way amenable to rigorous research;
2. Critically examine the relevant literature and policy debates;
3. Apply appropriate theories and research methods to address the chosen policy problem;
4. Present and discuss the findings of the research in a coherent and well-structured written thesis; and

5. Demonstrate the mastery of a broad subject knowledge in the professional field.

Indicative Content

1. Develop a research proposal with the nature, aims, scope of the study
2. Plan and undertake fieldwork
3. Conduct data analysis and discuss preliminary findings
4. Prepare written thesis
5. Present and defend the thesis

Teaching Method

Each student will be assigned an academic supervisor based on the match between the research interests of the student and the supervisor. Supervisors will be drawn from the academic staff of different academic units and research centres. They are experienced in undertaking high quality research and postgraduate dissertation supervision. It is expected that students should meet their academic supervisors regularly and conduct their research under the close guidance of their academic supervisors.

A Qualifying Panel should be formed for each student on commencement of the policy studies project following the regulations governing professional doctorate programmes approved by Senate.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes

Learning Outcome	Thesis
1. Identify one social policy problem and formulate in an appropriate way amenable to rigorous research;	✓
2. Critically examine the relevant literature and policy debates	✓
3. Apply appropriate theories and research methods to address the chosen policy problem	✓
4. Present and discuss the findings of the research in a coherent and well-structured written thesis	✓
5. Demonstrate the mastery of a broad subject knowledge in the professional field	✓

Assessment

- Coursework (Thesis): 100%

The length of a thesis should be normally 40,000-50,000 words supported by an oral presentation.

Grading mode of Student Achievement - Pass / Fail

Required/Essential Readings

Babbie, E. (2016) *The Practice of Social Research*, Thomson.

Booth, Wayne C., Colomb, Gregory G., Williams, Joseph M., Bizup, Joseph and Fitzgerald,

William T. (2016). *The Craft of Research*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

Murray, Rowena (2011). *How to Write a Thesis* (3rd ed). New York: Open University Press.

Silverman, D. (2006) *Interpreting Qualitative Data*, Sage.

Important Notes:

- (1) Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work, tests and examinations, and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. In particular, plagiarism, being a kind of dishonest practice, is “the presentation of another person’s work without proper acknowledgement of the source, including exact phrases, or summarised ideas, or even footnotes/citations, whether protected by copyright or not, as the student’s own work”. Students are required to strictly follow university regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.
- (2) Students are required to submit writing assignment(s) using Turnitin.
- (3) To enhance students’ understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course “Online Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness” is available on <https://pla.ln.edu.hk/>.

(30 July 2018)