

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Subject Description Form

Subject Code	LGT5201
Subject Title	Dissertation
Credit Value	9
Level	5
Normal Duration	1 academic year (two 13-week semesters and one 7-week summer term)*
Exclusion	LGT5202 Project
Role and Purposes	<p>The objectives for the whole dissertation subject are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To examine critically and in-depth a focused topic of interest arising, ideally, from the work done within the programme and/or in the student's employment and to make integrative linkages between classroom learning and work experience; ▪ To demonstrate the use of relevant scientific and analytical methods and practical skills, including those acquired during the programme, in the treatment of the chosen topic; ▪ To demonstrate an understanding of relevant research literature in the dissertation topic-area; ▪ To demonstrate an ability to set the chosen topic in its wider context, to sustain an argument, and to present conclusions related to policies or practices. <p>The subject includes a research methodology class to equip students with the basic skills and techniques for conducting research for a higher degree.</p>
Subject Learning Outcomes	<p>Upon completion of the subject, students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Identify a research problem in real world and write research proposals. b. Conduct literature review on issues related to the problem areas. c. Apply appropriate research methodologies with sound academic rigor in data collection, analysis and interpretation of the research findings. d. Deduce the solutions to the identified problems scientifically and understand the limitations. e. Communicate the research results effectively.
Subject Synopsis/ Indicative Syllabus	<p>Why do research? What is good research? Scientific thinking – styles of thinking, the thought process, the scientific attitude; What makes an investigation scientific? What can empirical research do? The necessity of knowing the purpose of research; The ethics of research; Qualitative and quantitative approaches; Variable, Parameter, Assumption, Theory, Model, Hypothesis, Ideal causal-study design; Case-study descriptive research; Classification research; Measurement and estimation; Comparison; Research trying to find relationships; Investigating cause and effect; Mapping structures;</p>

	Evaluation research; Questionnaire design; Interview; Survey; Sampling methods; Some principles of measurement – reliability and validity; Data analysis and interpretation; Writing Scientific Reports: Research report components and structure; Presentation of statistics; Plagiarism.																																																						
Teaching/Learning Methodology	<p>Guided study programme on research methodology equivalent to 1 credit value.</p> <p>Student-centred activities in the form of investigational/research work, literature review, data collection, data analysis and interpretation according to the requirements specified in the Guidelines for Dissertation (LGT5201)/Project (LGT5202) for MScISTL. The effort of these activities should be equivalent to 8 credit values.</p>																																																						
Assessment Methods in Alignment with Intended Learning Outcomes	<table border="1" data-bbox="517 719 1469 1344"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="517 719 855 925" rowspan="2">Specific assessment methods/tasks</th> <th data-bbox="855 719 1002 925" rowspan="2">% weighting</th> <th colspan="6" data-bbox="1002 719 1469 857">Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed (Please tick as appropriate)</th> </tr> <tr> <th data-bbox="1002 857 1078 925">a</th> <th data-bbox="1078 857 1155 925">b</th> <th data-bbox="1155 857 1232 925">c</th> <th data-bbox="1232 857 1308 925">d</th> <th data-bbox="1308 857 1385 925">e</th> <th data-bbox="1385 857 1469 925"></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="517 925 855 992">Coursework</td> <td data-bbox="855 925 1002 992"></td> <td data-bbox="1002 925 1078 992"></td> <td data-bbox="1078 925 1155 992"></td> <td data-bbox="1155 925 1232 992"></td> <td data-bbox="1232 925 1308 992"></td> <td data-bbox="1308 925 1385 992"></td> <td data-bbox="1385 925 1469 992"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="517 992 855 1093">Dissertation assessed by supervisor</td> <td data-bbox="855 992 1002 1093">45%</td> <td data-bbox="1002 992 1078 1093">✓</td> <td data-bbox="1078 992 1155 1093">✓</td> <td data-bbox="1155 992 1232 1093">✓</td> <td data-bbox="1232 992 1308 1093">✓</td> <td data-bbox="1308 992 1385 1093">✓</td> <td data-bbox="1385 992 1469 1093"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="517 1093 855 1193">Dissertation assessed by moderator</td> <td data-bbox="855 1093 1002 1193">35%</td> <td data-bbox="1002 1093 1078 1193">✓</td> <td data-bbox="1078 1093 1155 1193">✓</td> <td data-bbox="1155 1093 1232 1193">✓</td> <td data-bbox="1232 1093 1308 1193">✓</td> <td data-bbox="1308 1093 1385 1193">✓</td> <td data-bbox="1385 1093 1469 1193"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="517 1193 855 1272">Viva voce</td> <td data-bbox="855 1193 1002 1272">20%</td> <td data-bbox="1002 1193 1078 1272">✓</td> <td data-bbox="1078 1193 1155 1272">✓</td> <td data-bbox="1155 1193 1232 1272">✓</td> <td data-bbox="1232 1193 1308 1272">✓</td> <td data-bbox="1308 1193 1385 1272">✓</td> <td data-bbox="1385 1193 1469 1272"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="517 1272 855 1344">Total</td> <td data-bbox="855 1272 1002 1344">100 %</td> <td colspan="6" data-bbox="1002 1272 1469 1344"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p data-bbox="517 1361 1469 1429"><i>[This new % weighting will be effective for students newly registered on this subject starting from Semester 2 of 2011/12.]</i></p> <p data-bbox="517 1496 1469 1563">Explanation of the appropriateness of the assessment methods in assessing the intended learning outcomes:</p> <p data-bbox="517 1597 1469 1731">In order to have objective and comprehensive assessment on the student’s research work in the form of dissertation, the Final Dissertation will be assessed by the supervisor and by a moderator who is appointed by the Dissertation/ Project Co-ordinator.</p> <p data-bbox="517 1765 1469 1899">In addition to these two assessments, students pursuing a Dissertation will also be appraised at the Oral Presentation (Viva Voce) by a selected panel consisting of the supervisor, the moderator and a 3rd panel member, who is also appointed by the Dissertation/ Project Co-ordinator.</p> <p data-bbox="517 1933 1469 2000">All the assessment criteria are set out in the Guidelines for Dissertation (LGT5201)/Project (LGT5202) for MScISTL.</p> <p data-bbox="517 2033 1469 2134">Finally, all these marks are combined and the final grade for the Subject LGT5201 Dissertation is to be determined by the Dissertation Co-ordinator according to the assessment weighting set out in the Guidelines for Dissertation</p>	Specific assessment methods/tasks	% weighting	Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed (Please tick as appropriate)						a	b	c	d	e		Coursework								Dissertation assessed by supervisor	45%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		Dissertation assessed by moderator	35%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		Viva voce	20%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		Total	100 %						
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	(LGT5201)/Project (LGT5202) for MScISTL. <i>To pass this subject, students are required to obtain Grade D or above in the Continuous Assessment.</i>	
Student Study Effort Expected	Class contact:	
	▪ Meeting and Discussion with Supervisor	28 Hrs.
	▪	Hrs.
	Other student study effort:	
	▪ Research work	400 Hrs.
	▪	Hrs.
	Total student study effort	400 Hrs.
Reading List and References	<p>Remenyi, D., Field methods for academic research : interviews, focus groups and questionnaires in business and management studies , Academic Publishing International , 2011.</p> <p>Grigoroudis, Evangelos. Customer satisfaction evaluation methods for measuring and implementing service quality , SpringerLink e-books, Springer , 2010.</p> <p>Stokes, Peter, Key concepts in business and management research methods, Palgrave Macmillan , 2011.</p> <p>Remenyi, D., Field methods for academic research : interviews, focus groups and questionnaires in business and management studies , Academic Publishing International , 2011.</p> <p>Bryman, Alan. Business research methods , Oxford University Press , 2011 , 3rd Edition.</p> <p>Crowther, David. <u>Research methods</u> : a concise introduction to <u>research</u> in management and <u>business</u> consultancy , Butterworth-Heinemann , 2009 , 2nd Edition.</p> <p>Eriksson, Päivi, <u>Qualitative methods</u> in <u>business research</u> , SAGE Publications , 2008.</p>	