

# The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

## Subject Description Form

<b>Subject Code</b>	LGT5205
<b>Subject Title</b>	OM Dissertation
<b>Credit Value</b>	9
<b>Level</b>	5
<b>Normal Duration</b>	2-semester
<b>Exclusion</b>	LGT5111 Practice of Operations Management
<b>Role and Purposes</b>	<p>To enable participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To make integrative linkages among various subjects as well as between learning and their work experience;</li> <li>▪ To examine critically and in-depth a topic of interest arising from their chosen area of study;</li> <li>▪ To deepen their self- and social-awareness by sensitising them to their dual role as researcher and manager;</li> <li>▪ To pursue a research-based topic of local interest and importance in the field of business or management;</li> <li>▪ To demonstrate an understanding of relevant literature in the topic area selected;</li> <li>▪ To analyse basic research data in a systematic way and to a professional standard; and</li> <li>▪ To demonstrate an ability to set the topic in its wider context, to sustain argument, and to present conclusions related to policy and practice implications in business and management in Hong Kong.</li> </ul>
<b>Subject Learning Outcomes</b>	<p>Upon completion of the subject, students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Able to carry out an independent academic research project at a Master's level</li> <li>b. Able to apply basic research methods to solve an OM problem</li> <li>c. An appreciation of academic studies in area of operations management</li> </ol>
<b>Subject Synopsis/ Indicative Syllabus</b>	<p>In preparing their dissertations, students have an opportunity to draw upon particular themes of the programme, showing the extent to which they have been able to integrate what for them have been some of the dominant themes and interest areas. Students are expected to identify an area of study, explore this area in depth, collect and analyse data.</p> <p><b>Process</b> There are four elements in the completion of the dissertation:</p> <p><u>Research Proposal</u> In consultation with the dissertation supervisor, the student works out a proposed research plan, which must show evidence of sound background research and state in specific terms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Aims and objectives;</li> <li>▪ Review of literature and definition of the theoretical concepts to be used;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The basis for the research problem with reference to other such research;</li> <li>▪ Methodology of the study, i.e. the ways in which data are to be collected, analysed and reported;</li> <li>▪ A research schedule.</li> </ul> <p>The research plan is not a static model that needs to be followed rigidly.</p> <p><u>Progress</u></p> <p>After the initial research proposal, students are encouraged to seek advice from thesis supervisors on a regular basis and whenever necessary. The supervisor monitors and evaluates the student's performance, for example through verbal presentation and discussion of assigned readings; submitted draft chapters; annotated bibliographies; comprehension of the task in hand, planning, initiative, and thoroughness of investigation.</p> <p><u>The Research Report</u></p> <p>This is the written dissertation. In assessing the research report, the examiners will have regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The extent to which the student has been able to meet the broad criteria laid down in the objectives of the dissertation subject;</li> <li>▪ The degree of originality;</li> <li>▪ The significance of the findings;</li> <li>▪ The way in which the student has drawn upon and integrated theories and techniques;</li> <li>▪ The overall quality of the written presentation.</li> </ul> <p><u>Oral Examination</u></p> <p>Examiners will hold viva voce examinations. One purpose of the oral examination is to satisfy the panel of examiners that the work is the student's own. During these oral presentations, students will be required to answer queries relating to the dissertation and identify applications and future directions.</p> <p>The mark for the oral examination will take into consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The student's grasp of the problem,</li> <li>▪ The ability to answer queries, and</li> <li>▪ The student's presentation and communication skills.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Teaching/Learning Methodology</b></p>	<p>The teaching methods will be based on an MSc level of research studies under the supervision of an academic staff member. The student develops a research topic jointly with the supervisor and carries out an individual research study under the guidance of the supervisor. Performance is monitored continuously.</p>

<b>Assessment Methods in Alignment with Intended Learning Outcomes</b>	Specific assessment methods/tasks	% weighting	Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed (Please tick as appropriate)				
			a	b	c		
	Assessment of Research Proposal	10%			✓		
	Assessment of Thesis	90%	✓	✓	✓		
	Total	100 %					
	Explanation of the appropriateness of the assessment methods in assessing the intended learning outcomes: A significant portion of self-studies is required. Students are encouraged to take an initiation in carrying out the study, while the supervisor provides guidance.						
<b>Student Study Effort Expected</b>	Class contact:						
	▪ Meeting and Discussion with Supervisor		28 Hrs.				
	▪ Research Studies		362 Hrs.				
	Other student study effort:						
	▪		Hrs.				
	▪		Hrs.				
	Total student study effort		378 Hrs.				
<b>Reading List and References</b>	<p>Several references for research methodology are listed below:</p> <p>Sekaran, U Research Methods for Business: A Skill-Building Approach, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, New York: Wiley, chapter 13 ‘The research report’, 2000.</p> <p>In addition, students may find it useful to refer to one of the standard style guides, for example:</p> <p><i>Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association</i>, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, Washington: American Psychological Association.</p> <p>Supervisors will provide guidance on reading in the substantive field of research.</p>						