

<b>Course Title</b>	:	<b>Academic Writing and Research Methodology across Disciplines</b>
<b>Course Code</b>	:	RWTS510
<b>Recommended Study Year</b>	:	Any Postgraduate Students
<b>No. of Credits/Term</b>	:	2
<b>Mode of Tuition</b>	:	Lecture, Seminar, and Tutorial
<b>Class Contact Hours</b>	:	2 hours per week
<b>Category in Major Prog.</b>	:	Required
<b>Prerequisite(s)</b>	:	N/A
<b>Co-requisite(s)</b>	:	N/A
<b>Exclusion(s)</b>	:	N/A
<b>Exemption Requirement(s)</b>	:	N/A

### **Brief Course Description**

This course consists of weekly workshops followed by seminars / tutorials with focus on writing research proposal / academic papers and introduction to research methodology in humanities / social science. The first theme discusses key issues related to research proposal / academic paper writing (common modules), while the discussion of the second theme will be conducted in separated modules for students from different disciplines. For students in arts and humanities, the course discusses key approaches to research methodology in the humanities disciplines. For students in social science and business, the course gives an introduction to quantitative research methods and provides students with practical experience in performing basic statistical analysis using the statistical software (SPSS).

### **Proposal Writing / Academic Paper Writing**

This part of the course discusses major issues and challenges for writing research proposal and academic papers, with particular reference to research gap identification and research strategies. During the workshops, students will be given opportunity to share their own research, and explore the possibility to develop research clusters for promoting research collaboration among postgraduate students. Making reference to internationally refereed venues, students will be engaged in discussion of major strategies in getting academic papers published internationally.

### **Research Methodology in Humanities**

This part of the course provides an introduction to the basic concepts and tools for framing research questions and undertaking qualitative research in the humanities. In this course, students will be exposed to the theoretical frameworks underlying the emergence of different disciplines in the Humanities, and understand how to use textual, ethnographic, and historical methods

### **Quantitative Research Methods in Social Sciences**

This part of the course is a nontechnical introduction to the quantitative research methods with a focus on basic ideas of survey design, basic concepts and tools for the quantitative analysis of numerical data. It is an introductory workshop to quantitative research methods, and students will learn basic concepts of statistics, correlation ,

effectively present and properly interpret the statistical results. Following mini-lectures, tutorial sessions will be held for students to have hand-on exercise using the statistical software SPSS to handle real social data and complete some in-class assignment.

### **Aims**

This course aims to

1. deepen students' understanding of major issues, challenges and practical aspects for research proposal writing and writing for academic papers for international publications;
2. enable students to engage in dialogues to promote collaborative learning and form learning communities for enhancing research and scholarship.
3. equip students with knowledge of basic concepts in the Humanities (Research Methodology in Humanites);
4. develop students' ability to conduct archival work and fieldwork, and effectively interpret and present research results (Research Methodology in Humanites).
5. equip students with knowledge of basic statistical concepts and basic statistical analysis, and basic ideas of survey design (Quantitative Research Methods in Social Science);
6. develop students' ability to conduct basic data analysis with the aid of the statistical software, effectively present and properly interpret statistical results (Quantitative Research Methods in Social Science).

### **Learning Outcomes (LOs)**

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

1. understand the strategies and practical aspects of preparing research proposals, academic paper writing for publication;
2. develop learning community through engaging students in collaborative learning throughout the workshops and different kinds of learning activities;
3. demonstrate knowledge of basic concepts and analytical models in the Humanities (Research Methodology in Humanites);
4. interpret and present research findings effectively (Research Methodology in Humanites);
5. demonstrate knowledge of basic statistical concepts, basic statistical analysis and basic ideas of survey design (Quantitative Research Methods in Social Science);
6. instil in students the ability to effectively present and properly interpret statistical results (Quantitative Research Methods in Social Science);
7. acquire practical experience in performing basic statistical analysis using the statistical software (Quantitative Research Methods in Social Science).

### **Indicative Contents**

#### **Research Proposal / Academic Paper Writing**

1. Introduction to academic writing in social science
2. Understanding research articles: Reading towards writing
3. Understanding indepth information literacy
4. Engaging in scholarly communication discussion

5. Preparing research proposal: Major issues and strategies
6. Research ethics
7. Major issues and challenges for getting research published
8. Publication experience sharing: some practical aspects
9. Students presentations and discussions of their research

### **Research Methods Workshops in Humanites**

1. How to do research in philosophy
2. How to do research using ethnographic methods
3. How cinema can feature in humanities research
4. How to do research using historiographical methods
5. How to do research using textual analysis

### **Quantitative Research Methods in Social Sciences**

1. Introduction to social statistics and review of basic concepts
2. Descriptive statistics
3. Correlation
4. Survey design
5. Presentation and interpretation of statistical results
6. Tutorial sessions for hand-on exercises using the statistical software SPSS

### **Teaching Method**

Workshops are combined with seminars and tutorials. Students will deliver presentations on their own research, and engage in discussion and in-class tasks. Students, taking the modules of Research Methodology in Humanities, will submit at the end of the semester a substantially reworked research proposal or a thesis chapter. Students, taking the models of Research Methods in Social Science, will have hand-on exercises using the statistical software to handle real social data and complete some in-class assignments.

### **Measurement of Learning Outcomes**

1. In in-class discussions, students will reflect upon their learning experience after attending lectures and seminars (LOs 1-4).
2. In seminars, every student will give an oral presentation on their own research and their research plan (LOs 1, 2).
3. Students' participation in seminar discussions will be assessed. Students are encouraged to think critically and give constructive comments to peers' opinions and presentations (LOs 1-2).
4. Every student will engage in presenting their interim findings using a presentation tool (LOs 3-4).
5. Every student will engage in performing basic statistical analysis using the statistical software SPSS and complete some in-class assignments (LOs 5-7).

## **Assessment**

Grade mode: Pass / Fail

Assessment weightings:

For Social Sciences and Business Students:

- Research outline 50%
- Tutorial assignments 50% (Quantitative Research Methods in Social Sciences)

For Humanities Students:

- Rewritten research proposal or thesis chapter 100%

## **Required/Essential Readings (on reserve at the Library)**

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

Denscombe, M. (2014) *The Good Research Guide*, Open University Press.

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

University of Edinburgh, *How to Write a Good Postgraduate RESEARCH PROPOSAL*,  
<http://www.ed.ac.uk/files/imports/fileManager/HowToWriteProposal090415.pdf>

Healey, J. F. (2005) *Statistics: A Tool for Social Research*, Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.  
(Any subsequent version will be fine.)

Treiman, D. J. (2014) *Quantitative Data Analysis: Doing Social Research to Test Ideas*,  
John Wiley & Sons.

Norusis, M. J. *The SPSS Guide to Data Analysis*. (The 2006 edition or any subsequent  
edition will be fine).

## **Recommended/Supplementary Reading (on reserve at the Library)**

Lewis-Beck, M. S. (1995) *Data Analysis: An Introduction*, Sage.

Additional readings will also be given weekly on a topic by topic basis.

**Course Schedule**  
**Academic Writing and Research Methodology across Disciplines**

1<sup>st</sup> Term, 2017-2018

Thursday 2:00-4:00pm (except Nov. 24)

Class	Date	Topic	Lecturer	Venue*
<b><i>Part 1: Academic Writing</i></b>				
1	Sept. 7	Introduction to the Course How to Work with Your Supervisor & Dialogue with Experienced Researchers		
2	Sept. 14	Academic Writing	Prof Ka Ho Mok	
3	Sept. 21	Academic Writing		
4	Sept. 28	Academic Writing		AM310
	Oct. 5	<i>Mid-Autumn Festival Holiday</i> (the class will be suspended)		
5	Oct. 12	Scholarly Communication Workshop	Ms Sheila Cheung	
6	Oct. 19	Senior Seminar on “Contesting Globalization: Implications for Asia Pacific Higher Education”	Prof Ka Ho Mok	
7	Oct. 26	The Ethics and Politics of Social Research, and Academic Writing and Publication Strategies		
<b><i>Part 2: Research Methodology across Disciplines</i></b>				
<u>For Students from Faculty of Arts (Coordinator: Prof Tejaswini Niranjana)</u>				
8	Nov. 2	How to do Research in Philosophy	Prof Mikael Petterson and Prof Derek Baker	AM310
9	Nov. 9	How to do Research using Ethnographic Methods	Prof Roberto Castillo	
10	Nov. 16	How Cinema can Feature in Humanities Research	Prof Jonathan Frome	AM312
	Nov. 23	<i>Congregation</i> (the class is scheduled on Nov. 24 from 2:00-4:00pm)		
11	Nov. 24	How to do Research using Historiographical Methods	Prof Niccolo Pianciola	AM309
12	Nov. 30	How to do Research using Textual Analysis	Prof Agnes Kang and Prof Isaac Hui	
<u>For Students from Faculty of Business and Faculty of Social Sciences</u>				
8	Nov. 2	Introduction to the Course and Review of Basic Concepts	Prof Jin Jiang	NAB206
9	Nov. 9	Descriptive Statistics and Correlation	Prof Jin Jiang	
10	Nov. 16	Dialogue with the Experienced Researchers: Conducting Social Policy Research using Mixed Methods (TBC)	Prof Chak Kwan Chan and Prof Jin Jiang	Council Chamber
	Nov. 23	<i>Congregation</i> (the class is scheduled on Nov. 24 during 2:00-4:00pm)		
11	Nov. 24	Survey design		LKK101
12	Nov. 30	Presentation and Interpretation of Statistical Results	Prof Jin Jiang	NAB206

\*Venues: AM309, AM310, AM312: 3/F Amenities Building; NAB206: 2/F New Academic Block. Council Chamber: G/F, Wong Administration Building; LKK101: 1/F Leung Kau Kui Building.