

Course Title	:	Postgraduate Studies Seminar Series on Research Methodological Issues
Course Code	:	RMEH510
Recommended Study Year	:	Term 2 of 1 st year of MPhil/PhD Study
No. of Credits/Term	:	3
Mode of Tuition	:	Lecture and Seminar
Class Contact Hours	:	2 hours per week (for 14 weeks)
Category in Major Prog.	:	Elective Course for All MPhil/PhD Students
Prerequisite(s)	:	N/A
Co-requisite(s)	:	N/A
Exclusion(s)	:	N/A
Exemption Requirement(s)	:	N/A

Brief Course Description

The postgraduate seminar series provides opportunities for students to dialogue with scholars from different disciplines in research methodological issues. Local and overseas speakers will be invited to engage in research dialogues with students. Appendix 1 provides some suggested topics which were covered by the 2015-16 postgraduate studies seminar series.

An international symposium will be organized at Lingnan University to engage students of this course to enhance their learning and research experiences. Throughout the typically two-day international symposium, students would have the opportunity to learning from leading researchers. Different themes will be chosen as focus of research and policy dialogue among scholars and practitioners coming from the Asia Pacific region. Students will respond to speakers' presentations and join the discussion with speakers and other participants. They will also have some reflections linking their learning experience with their research. Students will have opportunity to present their research during the international symposium, getting comments and feedbacks from the symposium participants.

Aims

This course aims to equip students with the knowledge of research methodology of different disciplines, and to enhance student international learning experience through engaging them to actively participating in seminar series and the international conference.

Learning Outcomes (LOs)

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

1. understand major issues, challenges of research methodology of different disciplines through actively participate in seminars and the international symposium;
2. summarize and reflect their learning experience after seminars and the symposium;
3. build the links between their research and the discussions highlighted in the seminar series and the international symposium.

Indicative Contents

In the seminar series, speakers will be invited to share their research experience with a special focus on methodological issues. Speakers are scholars with rich research experience in different disciplines, coming from three broad academic disciplines including business and management, humanities and social sciences.

In the international symposium, leading researchers from Asia Pacific region will be invited to present their recent studies and share their research experience. Different themes will be chosen as focus of research and policy dialogue among scholars and practitioners. Students will be organized into different groups during the international symposium to respond to the presentations made by the invited speakers and special presentation sessions will be organized as part of the international event to enable students to present their research projects, with particular reference to build the links between their research and the discussions highlighted in the international symposium.

Teaching Method

Seminars and international symposium are combined with sharing sessions. Students will engage in discussions and presentations in seminar series and the international symposium.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes

1. In the seminars and international symposium, students will act as discussants in making responses and comments after listening to presentations of invited speakers (LOs 1-2).
2. Students will present their learning experience and show how to link their research topics and methods to the discussions highlighted in the international symposium and the seminar series (LOs 2-3).
3. Every student has to write up what major points that they have learned during the symposium (LOs 1-2)
4. Every student will write a reflective journal about their reflections upon their learning experience in the seminars and linking to their own research. (LOs 2-3).

Assessment

Reflective journal 60%

Summary of the symposium 20%

Discussion and sharing during seminars and the symposium 20%

In case an RPg student fails this course, the student's assessment and feedback will be conveyed to the Supervisor concerned for follow-up.

Readings

Readings will be assigned when topics/themes of seminar series and the international symposium are finalized. Readings directly relevant to the topics of the seminars will be suggested by the instructors and speakers concerned. Since the international symposium is guided by a special concept paper for discussion and presentation, students will be well informed before the event takes place.

Appendix 1

2015/ 2016 Postgraduate Studies Seminar Series

Organized by

Division of Graduate Studies

Lingnan University

Seminar 1 (15 February 2016) AM201, Amenities Building [10:00am to 12:15pm]

Topic: Doing Sociological Research: Methodological Reflections

Speaker: Professor Leslie Sklair, Professor Emeritus, Department of Sociology, London School of Economics and Political Science, UK

Seminar 2 (25 February 2016) AM310, Amenities Building [2:00 to 4:00pm]

Topic: Research Methodology in Business

Speaker: Professor Cui Geng, Associate Dean (Research and Postgraduate Studies), Faculty of Business, Lingnan University

Seminar 3 (10 March 2016) AM310, Amenities Building [2:00 to 4:00pm]

Topic: Studies on Entrepreneurship and Business Network

Speaker: Emeritus Professor Siu Lun Wong, Honorary Professor, Hong Kong Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences

Seminar 4 (17 March 2016) AM310, Amenities Building [2:00 to 4:00pm]

Topic: Analyzing National Data Sets: Reflections on Statistical Analysis (1)

Speaker: Dr Qian Jiwei, Research Fellow, East Asian Institute, National University of Singapore

Seminar 5 (18 March 2016) AM310, Amenities Building [2:00 to 4:00pm]

Topic: Analyzing National Data Sets: Reflections on Statistical Analysis (2)

Speaker: Dr Qian Jiwei, Research Fellow, East Asian Institute, National University of Singapore

Seminar 6 (24 March 2016) AM310, Amenities Building [2:00 to 4:00pm]

Topic: Mixed Sources, Triangulation, and Contextualizing: Sharing Some Experiences of Doing Hong Kong Studies

Speaker: Professor Lui Tai Lok, Chair Professor of Hong Kong Studies and Acting Vice President, Hong Kong Institute of Education

Seminar 7 (31 March 2016) AM310, Amenities Building [1:30 to 3:30pm]

Topic: East Asian Welfare Regime Revisited: What Changes in the 21st Century?

Speaker: Professor KU Yeun-wen, Department of Social Work, National Taiwan University

Seminar 8 (7 April 2016) AM310, Amenities Building [2:00 to 4:00pm]

Topic: Research on Historiography of Literature: Methodological Notes

Speaker: Professor Leonard Chan, Chair Professor of Chinese Literature and Dean, Faculty of Humanities, Hong Kong Institute of Education

Seminar 9 (14 April 2016) *AM310, Amenities Building* [2:00 to 4:00pm]

Topic: Conducting Interviews with Young Children: Methodological Reflections

Speaker: Dr Maggie Lau Ka Wai, Department of Public Policy, City University of Hong Kong

Seminar 10 (21 April 2016) *AM310, Amenities Building* [2:00 to 4:00pm]

Topic: Conducting Ethnographic Research: Ethics and Politics of Fieldwork

Speaker: Dr Cherris Chan Shun Ching, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Hong Kong

Seminar 11 (28 April 2016) *AM310, Amenities Building* [2:00 to 4:00pm]

Topic: Best Practices and Considerations When Conducting Survey Research

Speaker: Professor Li Pang-Kwong, Director of Public Governance Programme, Lingnan University

Seminar 12 (5 May 2016) *AM310, Amenities Building* [2:00 to 4:00pm]

Topic: Conducting Studies on Sociocultural Change: Reflections on Qualitative Research in Contemporary China

Speaker: Dr David Palmer, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Hong Kong