

Course Title	:	Public Management and Smart Governance Project
Course Code	:	PMS4204
Recommended Study Year	:	2
No. of Credits/Term	:	3
Mode of Tuition	:	Individual project with supervision
Class Contact Hours	:	At least five hours supervision
Category in Major Prog.	:	Required
Discipline	:	Public Management
Prerequisite(s)	:	PMG3XXX Policy Processes and Analysis; PMG3XXX Public Management: Comparative Perspectives PMG3XXX; Managing Public Organizations; PMG3XXX Managing Finance and Public Budgeting; PMG3XXX Government, Law and Society
Co-requisite(s)	:	N/A
Exclusion(s)	:	N/A
Exemption Requirement(s)	:	N/A

Brief Course Description

This course is in the form of a capstone project where students are expected to put the theoretical and experiential knowledge they have obtained from the programme to use. Students are expected to work independently to ensure that they take the lead in achieving the learning outcomes. For instance, students must come up with their own research topic which must be relevant to the fields of public management and smart governance. They are expected to produce a research report that meets the standard academic expectations working with assigned advisors. The report should be between 4000-5000 words. This course is thus equivalent to SSC4319 Senior Thesis offered by the Faculty of Social Sciences at Lingnan University. The project can be undertaken in three ways as follows:

- i. Case study approach: Students opting for this approach will be expected to address a clearly stated research question. Aside from engaging critically with the theoretical debates and empirical literature on the selected topic, students must support their arguments with a case study from activities involving relevant agencies as regards public management and smart governance issues. Students can present cases from their own workplaces or experiences/observations from other experiential courses in this programme.
- ii. An empirical study: Based on skills obtained in data analytics and other methodological lessons, students can embark on a manageable study involving primary or secondary data.
- iii. A critical literature review: In this option, students are expected to produce a body of work aimed at addressing specific research question(s) using existing literature as the primary source of information.

Aims

This course aims to:

1. Provide students a platform to apply fundamental theories, concepts and approaches in contemporary public management and smart governance.
2. Offer students opportunity to critically reflect on key public management and governance problems and evidenced-based solutions.
3. Enhance students research, analytical and writing skills in the area of public management and smart governance.
4. Give students opportunity to sharpen their presentation and public speaking skills.

Learning Outcomes (LOs)

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

1. formulate an innovative and manageable a public management research topic
2. apply fundamental theories, concepts and approaches in contemporary public management and smart governance.
3. explain key public management and governance problems and evidenced-based solutions.
4. develop competent analytical and writing skills in the area of public management.
5. produce a coherent and well-organised research report that meets academic standards

Indicative Content

- Briefing session (on the aims, learning outcomes, outline of project, and timelines)
- Each student must work on a topic/project relevant to public management and smart governance.

Teaching Methods

- Each student will be assigned an advisor. Students are expected to meet with their advisors regularly to receive guidance on completing their chosen topic. Each student will receive approximately five hours of supervision during the course of the project.

Assessment

10% Presentation of the proposal: All student must present their research proposal orally to the course coordinator, other faculty members and their classmates. Each individual/group shall have about 30 minutes to present the proposal including time for questions and answers from the course instructor and other students. Students must work with their advisors in preparation for the presentation ¹

25% Progress report: The progress report shall entail a 1000-1500 words detailing the research background (including some literature review), objectives and significance of the project and a conclusion. Students must work with their advisors during the preparation of the progress report ²

65% Project report: the project report shall be the final output from this course. The report must be a coherent work and where appropriate with clearly presented research background, problem statement, research objectives, literature review, methodology, results and concluding sections. The student must demonstrate clear understanding and familiarity with the topic, methods used (if relevant) and analyses of the findings. The research paper must be between 4000-5000 words³

Measurement of Learning Outcomes

Learning Outcome	Presentation of the proposal	Progress report	Project report
• formulate an innovative and manageable a public management research topic	✓	✓	✓
• apply fundamental theories, concepts and approaches in contemporary public management and smart governance.	✓	✓	✓
• explain key public management and governance problems and evidenced-based solutions.	✓	✓	✓
• develop competent analytical and writing skills in the area of public management.		✓	✓
• produce a coherent and well-organised research report that meets academic standards		✓	✓

Essential Readings

Bell, J., and Waters, S., 2014. *Doing your research project: a guide for first-time researchers*. 6th ed. Maidenhead: Open University Press.

van Thiel, S. (2021). *Research Methods in Public Administration and Public Management: An Introduction*: Routledge.

Recommended/Supplementary Readings

Jesson, J., Matheson, L. and Lacey, F.M., (2011). *Doing your literature review: traditional and systematic techniques*. London: SAGE.

Additional readings may be suggested by advisors

Important Notes:

1. Students are expected to spend a total of 125 hours (i.e. 5 hours of class contact and 120 hours of personal study) to achieve the course learning outcomes.
2. Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in coursework, 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.
3. Students are required to submit writing assignment(s) using Turnitin.

4. To enhance students' understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course "Online Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness" is available on <https://pla.ln.edu.hk/>.