

Course Title	:	Comparative Social Policy Research Project
Course Code	:	SOC605
Recommended Study Year	:	Taught Master Year 1
No. of Credits/Term	:	6
Mode of Tuition	:	Individual supervision
Class Contact Hours	:	N/A
Category in Major Prog.	:	Master of Social Sciences in Comparative Social Policy (International)
Discipline	:	Sociology and Social Policy
Prerequisite(s)	:	N/A
Co-requisite(s)	:	N/A
Exclusion(s)	:	N/A
Exemption Requirement(s)	:	N/A

Brief Course Description

This is an individually supervised and executed research project where students will demonstrate their knowledge, skills and analytical abilities in the area of comparative social policy through the execution of a research topic of their choice. The report produced should observe standards and requirements of academic writing and style.

Aims

Through independently conducted and supervised research, this course aims to develop students' ability to formulate, execute and write up a research project on a topic of their choice.

Learning Outcomes (LOs)

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

1. Formulate well-designed and sound research questions on comparative social policy issues;
2. Conduct a comprehensive literature review on a specific research topic with effective use of library, Internet, and other research resources;
3. Plan and organise a research design, develop and apply appropriate research methodologies;
4. Work independently to conduct original research within a manageable scope and time frame;
5. Produce a research project which incorporates fundamental elements of a full-fledged research project, and complies with the basic requirements and format of academic research.

Indicative Contents

The course requires students to submit a research project based on original work conducted, on a topic of their choice, containing the basic elements of an academic research report.

Teaching Method

Individual supervision.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes

Our measurement consists of two parts: continuous assessment and the final examination.

Continuous assessment is made up of the following components:

Mid-term progress report (15%) LOs 1-3	Students need to demonstrate considerable progress at mid-term, as assessed through regular meetings and communication with their supervisors, and ability to satisfy specific requirements set by their supervisors
Poster presentation (15%) LOs 1-5	Students are required to share their research findings with supervisors, faculty, and peers as part of poster session to be arranged towards the end of Term 2.
Final report (70%) LOs 1-5	Grading is based on content (40%) and organization (20%) and style (10%)

Assessment

Continuous assessment	100%
Mid-term progress report	15%
Poster presentation	15%
Final report	70%

Required / Essential Readings & Recommended/Supplementary Readings

To be assigne/suggested by individual supervisors

Important Notes

- (1) Students are expected to spend a total of 9 hours (i.e. 3 hours of class contact and 6 hours of personal study) per week to achieve the course learning outcomes.
- (2) Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work, 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/>.
- (5) Students must adhere to the University’s guidelines and practices when using Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools. The official documents “*Guidelines for Using GAI Tools at Lingnan University*” and “*Best Practices for Ethical and Responsible Use of GAI Tools in Course Assessments*” can be found here: <https://www.ln.edu.hk/tlc/generative-artificial-intelligence/gai-guidelines-best-practices>.