Research Postgraduate Students Seminar

SOSC 6400

1 Credit

Time: Monday, 3:30PM – 5:20PM

Venue: Room 2610, Academic Building (Lift 31-32)

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Office Hours: By email appointments

Course Description

This course is designed to provide basic professional training to research graduate students in the Division of Social Science. It covers topics related to career development, academic research, and job search in academic and non-academic fields. Topics covered in this course include methods of choosing research topics, research ethnics, skills of writing academic papers, and issues concerning job search in both academic and non-academic areas. This seminar course will be conducted at the divisional level by regular faculty members, visitors, and/or seminar speakers.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

ILO1: Recognize the latest developments and trends in their field of study.

ILO2: Articulate their career aspirations and evaluate the diverse opportunities available in both academic and non-academic fields.

ILO3: Understand the professional norms and etiquette expected in academia.

Assessment and Grading

This course will be assessed using criterion-referencing and grades will not be assigned using a curve. Detailed rubrics for each assignment are provided below, outlining the criteria used for evaluation.

Assessments:

Assessment Task	Contribution to Overall Course grade (%)	Due date
Attendance and Participation	20%	Week 1 to 12
Self-reflection Report	80%	30/11/2024

Mapping of Course ILOs to Assessment Tasks:

Assessed Task	Mapped ILOs	Explanation
Attendance and Participation	ILO1, ILO2, ILO3	This task ensures that the students are actively participating in the course, staying up-to-date with the latest developments in their fields of study (ILO1), and developing the necessary professional skills and mindset to navigate their academic and career trajectories (ILO2 & ILO3).
Self-reflection report	ILO1, ILO2, ILO3	This task allows students to discuss the latest developments and trends in their fields of study (ILO1), to articulate their career goals (ILO2) and to demonstrate their understanding of the professional norms and etiquette in academia (ILO3).

Final Grade Descriptors:

Grades	Short Description	Elaboration on subject grading description
P	Pass	Has the ability to discuss the latest developments and trends in their fields of study, to articulate their career goals and to demonstrate their understanding of the professional norms and etiquette in academia.
F	Fail	Fails to demonstrate a clear understanding of the latest developments and trends in their fields of study, struggles to articulate their career goals, and exhibits a limited understanding of the professional norms and etiquette in academia.

Student Rubrics

The following rubrics will be used to assess the tasks that you submit or achieve.

Class Participation and Attendance Rubric:

Criteria	Excellent	Good	Average	Below average	Unsatisfactory
Attendance	Attends all classes	Misses 1 class with a valid excuse (e.g. illness, emergency)	Misses 1 class with a valid excuse (e.g. illness, emergency)	Misses 2 classes, regardless of excuse	Misses more than 2 classes, regardless of excuse
Engagement in Class	Actively participates in discussions, asks thoughtful questions, and provides insightful comments	Participates regularly in discussions and asks questions to clarify understanding	Participates occasionally, but contributions are basic or demonstrate only partial understanding	Rarely participates, even when called upon, and does not seem engaged	Does not participate in class discussions and shows no engagement

Reflection Paper Rubric:

Criteria	Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	Unsatisfactory
Understanding of Course Content	Demonstrates a comprehensive and nuanced understanding of the latest developments, trends, and professional norms/etiquette in the field. Provides insightful connections between course content and personal experiences.	Demonstrates a strong understanding of the latest developments, trends, and professional norms/etiquette in the field. Provides clear connections between course content and personal experiences.	Demonstrates a basic understanding of the latest developments, trends, and professional norms/etiquette in the field. Attempts to connect course content to personal experiences.	Demonstrates a limited understanding of the latest developments, trends, and professional norms/etiquette in the field. Struggles to connect course content to personal experiences.	Fails to demonstrate an understanding of the latest developments, trends, and professional norms/etiquette in the field. No clear connections between course content and personal experiences.
Articulation of Career Aspirations	Articulates career aspirations with a high level of clarity and self-awareness. Provides a nuanced and comprehensive evaluation of the diverse opportunities available in both academic and non-academic fields.	Articulates career aspirations with clarity and self-awareness. Provides a clear evaluation of the diverse opportunities available in both academic and non-academic fields.	Articulates career aspirations with some clarity. Provides a basic evaluation of the opportunities available in both academic and non-academic fields.	Articulates career aspirations with limited clarity. Provides a superficial evaluation of the opportunities available in both academic and non-academic fields.	Fails to articulate career aspirations clearly. Provides little to no evaluation of the opportunities available in both academic and non-academic fields.
Critical Reflection and Insights	Demonstrates a high level of critical reflection and insight, synthesizing course content with personal experiences and future goals. Provides thoughtful, well-reasoned, and insightful conclusions.	Demonstrates a strong level of critical reflection and insight, connecting course content with personal experiences and future goals. Provides thoughtful and reasoned conclusions.	Demonstrates a basic level of critical reflection, attempting to connect course content with personal experiences and future goals. Provides some relevant conclusions.	Demonstrates a limited level of critical reflection, with weak connections between course content, personal experiences, and future goals. Provides superficial conclusions.	Fails to demonstrate critical reflection or insight. Lacks clear connections between course content, personal experiences, and future goals. Provides no relevant conclusions.
Organization, Clarity, and Writing	Exceptional organization, clarity, and quality of writing. Ideas presented in a logical, coherent, and compelling manner.	Good organization, clarity, and quality of writing. Ideas communicated effectively.	Reasonable organization, clarity, and quality of writing, but with room for improvement.	Weak organization, clarity, and quality of writing, impeding communication of ideas.	Poor organization, clarity, and quality of writing, making reflection difficult to understand.

Course AI Policy

The use of generative AI tools is permitted to assist students with their self-reflection reports, but overreliance on AI-generated text is discouraged, and students must properly credit any use of AI and adhere to the university's academic integrity policy.

Communication and Feedback

Assessment marks for individual assessed tasks will be communicated via Canvas within two weeks of submission. Feedback on assignments will include comments on strengths and areas for improvement. Students who have further questions about the feedback including marks should consult the instructor within five working days after the feedback is received.

Late submission Policy

Late submission will *NOT* be accepted unless a valid reason is given and prior special permission is obtained.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to adhere to the university's academic integrity policy. Students are expected to uphold HKUST's Academic Honor Code and to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. The University has zero tolerance of academic misconduct. Please refer to [Academic Integrity | HKUST – Academic Registry](#) for the University's definition of plagiarism and ways to avoid cheating and plagiarism.