

## Course Description

### MEDD8920 Classroom Research in General Studies and Liberal Education

<b>Course description</b>			
<p>This course provides a step-by-step approach on how to conduct empirical research in General Studies and Liberal Education. Students will learn from different academic publications (e.g. journal articles) on how to use qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods to do classroom research related to these two learning areas. The methods taught in the course include case studies, questionnaire-based surveys, interviews and action research, which are useful in evaluating the effectiveness of Liberal Education and General Studies in Hong Kong schools. By the end of the course, it is expected that students will understand how to design and conduct a small-scale research project to better understand the nature and/or evaluate their own teaching performance in the subjects.</p>			
<p><b>Coursework / Examination ratio:</b> <u>  100  </u> % Coursework, <u>  0  </u> % Examination</p>			
<b>Course objectives</b>			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To develop students' understanding of the concept of classroom research in the context of General Studies and Liberal Education.</li> <li>2. To develop students' basic techniques and skills in relation to classroom research in different educational contexts.</li> </ol>			
<b>Course learning outcomes</b>			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop a critical perspective of the different approaches in examining an educational problem and to be able to develop an approach that is most suitable for the problem examined;</li> <li>2. Develop an ability to identify an ill-defined educational problem, make precise the problem; and develop ways of studying it</li> <li>3. Develop understanding of one's own competencies in studying a research problem and to design a method of research that exploits one's strength and minimizes one's weaknesses</li> <li>4. Develop understanding of ways of improving teaching based on the research conducted (e.g., action research).</li> <li>5. develop ability to write well a research proposal describing the methods used and the conclusion reached</li> </ol>			
<b>Course assessment methods</b>			
Assessment method	Type of assessment (e.g. description of assignment)	Weighting (%)	Aligned course learning outcome(s)
Essay	<p>Research proposal</p> <p>A report of 500 words describing a small-scale research proposal.</p> <p>The paper should consist of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Research topic {reasons for study it, research significance };</li> <li>▪ Literature review { a review of the at least 5 research studies that related to the research topic }</li> <li>▪ Research questions { the research gap based on the literature review }</li> </ul> <p>A 10-minute presentation regarding your research proposal.</p>		CLOs 1, 2
Essay	<p>Research report</p> <p>A report of 1500 words describing a research report.</p> <p>The paper should consist of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Methodology {context (proposed class; students); a description of how you collect data};</li> </ul>		CLOs 2, 3

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Proposed Data Analysis {a description of how you analyze the data you obtained};</li> <li>▪ Limitations {A description of limitations of the study}.</li> </ul> <p>Describe your study in such a way that other students can repeat the steps that you have taken, and, if they have done so, will be able to draw the same conclusions as you have from your data.</p>		
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**Course content and topics**

Session	
1	The Nature and Curriculum of General Studies and Liberal Education in Hong Kong
2	What is Research? Exemplars of Research in Liberal Education
3	Proposing Research Topics and Questions
4	Basic Structure of Research in Education
5	Literature review workshop (For Assignment 1) and examples of classroom research (1)
6	Examples of Classroom Research (2)
7	Examples of classroom research (3)
8	Research Proposal Workshop – For Assignment 2

**Required / recommended readings and online materials**

1. Cohen, L. (1976). *Educational research in classrooms and schools: A manual of materials and methods*. London; New York: Harper & Row.
2. Creswell, J. W., & Clark, V. L. P. (2007). *Designing and conducting mixed methods research*; New York: Wiley.

**Other additional course information**

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