

Subject Description Form

| Subject Code | APSS6301 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|------------------|--|----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|---|-----|----|--|-----|----|--------------------------------|-----|----|
| Subject Title | Quantitative Research Methods in Social Work Research | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Credit Value | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Level | 6 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pre-requisite / Co-requisite/ Exclusion | Nil | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Assessment Methods | <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 45%;">100% Continuous Assessment</th> <th style="width: 25%;">Individual Assessment</th> <th style="width: 30%;">Group Assessment</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. One research paper critique (presentation)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">20%</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. One research paper critique (written)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">30%</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. One Proposal (presentation)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">50%</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The grade is calculated according to the percentage assigned; ▪ The completion and submission of all component assignments are required for passing the subject; and ▪ Student must pass all components if he/she is to pass the subject. | | | 100% Continuous Assessment | Individual Assessment | Group Assessment | 1. One research paper critique (presentation) | 20% | 0% | 2. One research paper critique (written) | 30% | 0% | 3. One Proposal (presentation) | 50% | 0% |
| 100% Continuous Assessment | Individual Assessment | Group Assessment | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. One research paper critique (presentation) | 20% | 0% | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2. One research paper critique (written) | 30% | 0% | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3. One Proposal (presentation) | 50% | 0% | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Objectives | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understand the application issues of major quantitative methods that are commonly used in social work research. 2. Be familiar with the proper ways of using quantitative methods to answer research questions. 3. Be able to understand and evaluate research reports and studies that cover commonly used quantitative research methods and statistical analyses in social work research. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Intended Learning Outcomes | <p>Upon completion of the subject, students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Understand the application issues of major quantitative and statistical methods that are commonly used in social work research. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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|--|---|
| | <p>b. Be familiar with proper ways of using statistical methods to answer research questions.</p> <p>c. Be able to understand and evaluate research reports and studies that cover commonly used quantitative research methods and statistical analyses.</p> |
| Subject Synopsis/ Indicative Syllabus | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fundamentals of quantitative research methodology in social work research, for example, the pros and cons of observational research, experimental research design, and secondary data analysis in addressing different social work issues. 2. Issues in application and design of quantitative research methodology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major issues in using different types of quantitative research methods – research design, sample size, sampling design, response rate & non-response bias, missing data, questionnaire development; • Developing measuring instruments – operationalisation and issues related to validity and reliability; • Applying different statistical methods to analyse data. 3. Using statistical analyses to address research questions and build up arguments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of inferential statistics in social work research; • Using the observable to represent the unobservable - factor analysis, latent variable models; • Using statistics to classify cases – discriminant analysis, cluster analysis; • Principles of statistical model building & statistical control; • Some commonly used statistical modelling methods. |
| Teaching/Learning Methodology | <p>The course will emphasize the application of quantitative research designs and statistical analysis in relation to social work. Examples will be drawn from local and international studies. Classroom lecturing will be supplemented by workshops and hand-on computer practices using local and international survey data. Local and international examples in social work related research will be used to illustrate the principle, design and application issues of quantitative research methodologies.</p> |

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| Assessment Methods in Alignment with Intended Learning Outcomes | Specific assessment methods/tasks | % weighting | Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed | | |
| | | | a | b | c |
| | 1. One research paper critique (presentation) | 20% | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | 2. One research paper critique (written) | 30% | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | 3. One proposal (presentation) | 50% | | ✓ | |
| Total | 100% | | | | |
| <p>Explanation of the appropriateness of the assessment methods in assessing the intended learning outcomes:</p> <p>The research paper critique will assess learning outcome (a) (b) (c); the workbook will assess learning outcome (b).</p> | | | | | |
| Student Study Effort Expected | Class contact: | | | | |
| | ▪ Lecture | | 18 Hrs. | | |
| | ▪ Seminar | | 21 Hrs. | | |
| | Other student study effort: | | | | |
| | ▪ Writing | | 20 Hrs. | | |
| | ▪ Reading | | 20 Hrs. | | |
| | ▪ Library and related research | | 30 Hrs. | | |
| Total student study effort | | 109 Hrs. | | | |
| Reading List and References | <p><u>Essential</u></p> <p>Kaplan, D. (2004). <i>The SAGE Handbook of Quantitative Methodology for the Social Sciences</i>. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications. doi: 10.4135/9781412986311</p> | | | | |

<http://sk.sagepub.com.ezproxy.lb.polyu.edu.hk/reference/the-sage-handbook-of-quantitative-methodology-for-the-social-sciences>

Martin, W. E., & Bridgmon, K. D. (2012). *Research Methods for the Social Sciences Series: Quantitative and Statistical Research Methods : From Hypothesis to Results* (1). San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.

<http://site.ebrary.com.ezproxy.lb.polyu.edu.hk/lib/polyu/detail.action?docID=10580219>

Gordon, R. A. (2012). *Applied Statistics for the Social and Health Sciences*. New York, NY: Routledge.

<http://site.ebrary.com.ezproxy.lb.polyu.edu.hk/lib/polyu/detail.action?docID=10589002&p00=statistics+social+sciences>

Supplementary

Faherty, V. E. (2008). *Compassionate statistics: Applied quantitative analysis for social services, with exercises and instructions in SPSS*. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications. doi: 10.4135/9781483329543

<http://sk.sagepub.com.ezproxy.lb.polyu.edu.hk/books/compassionate-statistics>

Lynch, S. M. (2013). *Using statistics in social research: A concise approach*. New York, NY: Springer.

<http://link.springer.com.ezproxy.lb.polyu.edu.hk/book/10.1007%2F978-1-4614-8573-5>

Morgan, G. A., Leech, N. L., & Gloeckner, G. W. (2012). *IBM SPSS for introductory statistics: Use and interpretation* (5th ed.). New York, NY: Routledge.

<http://site.ebrary.com.ezproxy.lb.polyu.edu.hk/lib/polyu/detail.action?docID=10872846>

Morgan, S., Reichert, T., & Harrison, T. R. (2015). *From numbers to words: Reporting statistical results for the social sciences*. New York, NY: Routledge.

<http://site.ebrary.com.ezproxy.lb.polyu.edu.hk/lib/polyu/detail.action?docID=11238583>

Ruane, J. M. (2015). *Introducing social research methods: Essentials for getting the edge* (1). Chicester, England: Wiley-Blackwell.

<http://site.ebrary.com.ezproxy.lb.polyu.edu.hk/lib/polyu/detail.action?docID=11128377>

Shaw, I., Briar-Lawson, K., & Orme, J. (2010). *The SAGE handbook of social work research*. London: SAGE Publications. doi: 10.4135/9780857021106

http://sk.sagepub.com.ezproxy.lb.polyu.edu.hk/reference/hdbk_socialworksch

Sheppard, M. (2004). *Appraising and Using Social Research in the Human Services : An Introduction for Social Work and Health Professionals*. London: Jessica Kingsley Publishers.

<http://web.a.ebscohost.com.ezproxy.lb.polyu.edu.hk/ehost/detail/detail?sid=caa62165-b9d1-4448-8245-1e28de0ae6cc%40sessionmgr4008&vid=0&hid=4104&bdata=JnNpdGU9ZWhvc3QtbG12ZQ%3d%3d#AN=129937&db=nlebk>

Weakliem, D. L. (2016). *Hypothesis Testing and Model Selection in the Social Sciences*. New York, NY: The Guilford Press.

<http://site.ebrary.com.ezproxy.lb.polyu.edu.hk/lib/polyu/detail.action?docID=11171238>