GECC4130 Senior Seminar
Course Outline (Term 1, 2025/26)

Course Code: GECC4130 Section:_____
Title in English: Senior Seminar
Title in Chinese: 專題討論
Number of Units: 3

Course description:

This is a student-oriented teaching (STOT) capstone course for senior year students. Students will form an interdisciplinary team to conduct a small group research on topics of interdisciplinary nature, current affairs, cross-disciplinary knowledge or daily life issues.

With preliminary work and most of the research being carried out in the second term and the summer of the preceding academic year, students are enrolled to the course in term one, normally in the 4th year of study (Y4T1), where students will deliver an oral presentation, exchanging ideas with one another in a seminar context and submit written works.

This course cultivates knowledge and skills in problem solving, critical thinking and value judgment; nurtures appropriate attitude and techniques in cross-disciplinary collaboration, rational and contributive teamwork as well as analysis with multiple perspectives.

Advisory:

1. This course is intended for senior year students:

   a. Course registration at Term 1 of the graduation year (e.g. Y4T1), pre-registration in Term 2 of preceding year (e.g. Y3T2).

   b. Students admitted to Senior-Year Places who will complete their undergraduate programme in 2 years should make pre-registration in Y1T2 for course registration in Y2T1.

   c. Students enrolled in an undergraduate programmes of more than 4 years of study (BChiMed, BEd, BNurs, MBChB), should normally follow the same schedule in 1(a) of taking this course in their 4th year, instead of their final year (5th or 6th year).

2. Students must pre-register with the College in Term 2 of preceding year (e.g. Y3T2) and conduct most of the research work required in the summer.

3. Students should refer to "possible schedule" at below section "Syllabus" for preparing wisely your study plan across the preceding term, the preceding summer and the course registration term (e.g. Y3T2, Summer & Y4T1).

4. Students of case 1(c) opting for taking this course later than the 4th year of attendance must notify the College GE Office before the deadline of the pre-registration period in Y3T2. To take the course in later year (e.g. Y5T1 or Y6T1), it has the same requirement of pre-registration with the College in Term 2 of preceding year (e.g. Y4T2 or Y5T2). However, students of this category have to be aware of the teaching/clinical practice, fieldwork placement, professional examinations, etc. in their Year 5 or above when considering not following the normal schedule.

Learning outcomes:

After taking the course, students will be able to:

1. integrate learning from various disciplines.
2. conduct study to address broad issues in real life beyond their major subject.
3. address issues with basic research methodology and a liberal approach to diverse values.
4. present arguments in both oral and written form in a logical and coherent manner.
5. develop information literacy and foundations for lifelong learning.
6. demonstrate active and rational collaboration in group discussion.
7. demonstrate personal and social soft skills, and the ability to work in a team.

Grade descriptors:

Grade	Overall course
A	• Examine problems with novel approaches, multiple perspectives, and outstanding problem-solving strategies. • Outstanding and ample justification of evidence and logical reasoning. • Outstanding synergy of various concepts and methods to address the problem. • Consistent active participation in consultations and in-class activities. • Quality and constructive input in group discussions and consultations. • Outstanding performance on all learning outcomes. • Complete all assessment tasks on time.
A-	• Examine problems with multiple perspectives and excellent problem-solving strategies. • Convincing justification of evidence and logical reasoning. • Integrate substantial concepts and methods to address the problem. • Active participation in consultations and in-class activities. • Quality and constructive input in group discussions and consultations. • Generally outstanding performance on almost all learning outcomes. • Complete all assessment tasks on time.
B+, B, B-	• Solve problems with routine or familiar approaches. • Justification of evidence or reasoning may have minor flaw or requires clarification yet acceptable. • General application of concepts and methods to address the problem. • Satisfactory participation in consultations and in-class activities. • Substantial performance on all learning outcomes, OR good performance on some learning outcomes which compensates for less satisfactory performance on other learning outcomes, resulting in overall substantial performance.
C+, C, C-	• Satisfactory performance on majority of learning outcomes.
D+, D	• Barely satisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes.
F	• Unsatisfactory performance on most of the learning outcomes, OR failure to meet specified assessment requirements.

Course syllabus:

GECC4130 is a student-oriented teaching (STOT) course for senior year students. With preliminary work being carried out in the second term and summer of the preceding academic year, class meetings take place in the first term of the final year. Students will form interdisciplinary small groups to conduct project studies on current affairs, cross-disciplinary knowledge or daily life issues, with appropriate initial work and methodology such as literature review, survey, photovoice, interviews, field study, etc. Students will demonstrate their problem-solving skills, present their work in both oral and written form, and exchange ideas with other groups in a seminar context.

Possible Schedule:

Phase 1 – Preparation and Planning | *Preceding 2nd Term (e.g. Y3T2)*
Mar – Pre-registration, form group and propose topic
Apr –1st meeting with course supervisor
April to May – Submit proposal
May to June – Proposal being approved

Phase 2 – Inquiry and Analysis | *Preceding Summer (e.g. Y3 Summer)*
Carry out research
Consultations with and report progress to supervisor

Phase 3 – Closure and Result Delivery | *Final Year 1st Term (e.g. Y4T1)*
Sep – Prepare presentation and report
Sep to Dec – Presentations and discussions at tutorials
Sep to Dec – Submit project report, reflective essay and intra-group peer evaluation form

The course syllabus and a possible implementation schedule are described in this section for illustration only. The actual implementation plan is subject to the recommendation and requirement by individual supervisor as well as nature of individual project.

Chung Chi students are encouraged to enrich their global outlook and expand their vision through participating in overseas programmes. Some of these programmes may be organized by the College or by other units within CUHK. Students may consider integrating their overseas experience and international exposure with the Senior Seminar, for instance, by conducting regional comparative studies, especially if some group members participate in overseas programmes during the preceding summer. If so, they need to plan ahead of time, present the idea in their proposal and make arrangements for long-distance consultation with supervisors during the out-of-town period.

Teaching & Learning Activities:

Phase	Teaching & Learning Activity	Type / Hour (if applicable)
Preparation and Planning	First Meeting with Course Supervisor	In class / 2 hours
	Proposal	Out of class
Inquiry and Analysis	Research	Out of class
	Consultations (at least two sessions)	Out of class / 2 hours
	Interim Progress Report	Out of class
Closure and Result Delivery	Interactive Tutorials: Presentation, Commentary and Discussion	In class / 21 hours, 7 lessons
	Written report, Reflective Essay and Intra-Group Peer Evaluation	Out of class

Remarks:
1. Hours of learning activities vary across different class sections subject to nature of project and recommendation from course supervisors.
2. The tutorial classes of this course are conducted in an interdisciplinary senior seminar context which comprises sessions of presentation, commentary, discussion, etc.

Assessment Scheme:

Assessment Type	Assessment Task	Percentage	Remarks
Project	Consultation	10% (Group)	Phase 1-3 • At least TWO consultations. • Submit Interim Progress Report (IPR) Form in late summer.
	Proposal	10% (Group)	Phase 1 paperwork
Presentation	Oral presentation	20% (Individual)	Phase 3 in-class activities
Discussion	Commentary	10% (Individual)	Phase 3 in-class activities
	Open discussion	15% (Individual)	
Report	Project report	20% (Group)	Phase 3 paperwork
Essay	Reflective essay	5% (Individual)	Phase 3 paperwork
Others	Intra-Group Peer Evaluation	10% (Individual)	

Late submission policy:
1. For written assignments, a deduction of 20% mark will be applied for late submissions, and submissions received after 5 days from the deadline will not be marked.
2. In general, requests for deadline extensions should be made at least one week prior to the deadline by email to the course supervisor accompanied by justifiable reasons and supporting documents. Extensions will only be granted under unexpected or exceptional circumstances beyond the student's control.

Course schedule:

Time Period	Particular	Remarks
March	Group forming and pre-registration exercise	Submit group members information and initial project topic with a description
11th April	First meeting with course supervisor	Date may be rescheduled for particular groups
April to May	Seek advice on proposal	*"Proposal Writing Guidelines"* *
May to June	Submission of proposal for approval	
June to August	Conduct study and consultation	*"Interim Progress Report Form"* *
August	Submission of Interim Progress Report	
First Term September to December	Consultation on results and conclusion	Submit presentation outline at least 7 days before presentation.
	Seven Senior Seminar Lessons on Fridays: Oral Presentation, Commentary and Discussion	
	Submission of Project Report, Reflective Essay and Intra-group Peer Evaluation Forms	*"Reflective Essay Guidelines"*, *"Intra-group Peer Evaluation Form"* , *"Project Report Cover Page template"* *

* Course materials can be downloaded from the GECC4130 Website: https://www.ccc.cuhk.edu.hk/en/content.php?wid=245

Presentation schedule:

Presentation Date	Presenting Group(s)	Commentary Group
e.g. week 2	1	4
Exact date and order to be arranged by supervisor	2	5
	3	6
	4	7
	5	1
	6	2
	7	3

Class Arrangements (classroom booking 3:30-6:15):

	Lesson Arrangement	Recommended time allocation (2hr – 2hrs 45mins) To be confirmed by supervisor
(i)	Presentation One group will present on their group study	40 minutes
(ii)	Commentary Another group, the commentary group, will comment on the presentation.	20 minutes
	Break	10 minutes
(iii)	Discussion Open to all groups. Discussion led by either the presentation or commentary group (to be decided within individual class).	50 minutes or above
(iv)	Conclusion By course supervisor	5 minutes

Required and recommended reading:

Required readings:

1. Babbie, Earl R. *The Practice of Social Research*. Fourteenth edition. Boston, MA: Cengage Learning, 2016.

2. Kumar, Ranjit. *Research Methodology: A Step-by-Step Guide for Beginners*. Fourth edition. Los Angeles: SAGE, 2014.

3. Kumar, Ranjit 著，潘中道、胡龍騰譯。《研究方法：步驟化學習指南》。第 2 版。台北市: 學富文化事業有限公司，2010。

And to be assigned by course supervisors.

Recommended readings:

1. Jason, Leonard, and David Glenwick, eds. *Handbook of Methodological Approaches to Community-Based Research: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2016.

2. 李逆熵：《格物致知：思考與研究方法概要》。初版。香港：經濟日報出版社，2009。

3. Crabtree, Benjamin F., and William L. (William Lloyd) Miller 著，黃惠雯等譯。《最新質性方法與研究》。修正重印本，2007 年修正版。台北縣永和市：韋伯文化國際出版有限公司，2007。

And to be assigned by course supervisors.

Feedback for evaluation:

Course and Teaching Evaluation Survey
Course-end evaluation through group representatives and e-mail exchanges

Academic honesty, plagiarism and AI tools

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/.

With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed declaration that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures.

- For group projects of GECC4130, all students of the same group should be asked to sign the declaration, each of whom is responsible and liable to disciplinary actions should there be any plagiarized contents in the group project, irrespective of whether he/she has signed the declaration and whether he/she has contributed directly or indirectly to the plagiarized contents.

- For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment.

- Students are fully aware that their work may be investigated by AI content detection software to determine originality.

Assignments without the properly signed declaration will not be graded by teachers.

Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.

The submission of a piece of work, or a part of a piece of work, for more than one purpose (e.g. to satisfy the requirements in two different courses) without declaration to this effect shall be regarded as having committed undeclared multiple submissions. It is common and acceptable to reuse a turn of phrase or a sentence or two from one's own work; but wholesale reuse is problematic. In any case, agreement from the course teacher(s) concerned should be obtained prior to the submission of the piece of work.

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As a general principle, students are prohibited from using any AI tools to complete their assignments, assessments and any other works that count towards their final grade of the course or attainment of the desired learning outcomes, unless explicitly permitted. "Use of Artificial Intelligence Tools in Teaching, Learning and Assessments – A Guide for Students" is available at the website of Academic and Quality Section Registry, CUHK: https://www.aqs.cuhk.edu.hk/documents/A-guide-for-students_use-of-AI-tools.pdf

Contact details for course supervisor:

Name:	
Office Location:	
Telephone:	
Email:	
Teaching Venue:	
Website:	
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