GECC3130 Exploration and Discovery
Course Outline (Term 1, 2025/2026)

Course Code: **GECC3130 (Section: ___)**
Title in English: **Exploration and Discovery**
Title in Chinese: **學問與遊歷**
Number of Units: **3**
Learning Programme:
Course description

The course Exploration and Discovery (E&D) features the synergy of supervised project and designated/ recognized learning programme,, for instance, social-cultural exploration trip, thematic study trip, leadership programme or other prescribed set of learning offerings. Students participating in the same learning programme will conduct a project in an interdisciplinary team.
 	
 Students will learn through first-hand experiences as well as the various learning activities from the learning programme. Each group will conduct a project to investigate a special topic under the scope of the learning programme.
 	
 Advisory:
 1. Pre-registration bundled with the application of the designated College learning programme, which normally takes place in the preceding term (e.g. Y2T2) of the course registration term (e.g.Y3T1).
 	
 2. Eligibility:
    a) In general, students who are in the 2nd year of attendance or above in the course registration term.
    b) Students enrolled in an undergraduate programme of more than 4 years of study (BChiMed, BEd, BNurs, MBChB, etc.) are strongly advised to take this course in their 2nd, 3rd or 4th year, instead of their upper years (5th or 6th year) which involve teaching/clinical practice, fieldwork placement, professional examinations, etc.
 	
 3. Students must participate in all components of learning programme and fulfill its relevant requirements.
 	
 4. Students should refer to "possible schedule" at below section "Syllabus" for preparing wisely your study plan across the summer and the course registration term (e.g. Y3Summer & Y4T1).

Learning Outcomes

After taking the course, students will be able to:
 	
   1. integrate concepts and learning experience from the learning programme.
   2. conduct study to address issues under the scope of the learning programme.
   3. address issues with basic research methodology and an evidence-based approach.
   4. present arguments in both oral and written form in a logical and coherent manner.
   5. demonstrate competences in self-directed learning and teamwork.

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 insights from the learning programme to address the problem. • Consistent and active participation in the learning programme, 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 insights from the learning programme to address problem. • Active participation in the learning programme, 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 insights from the learning programme to address the problem. • Satisfactory participation in the learning programme, 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

Keywords:
- Supervised Project
- Experiential Learning
- Problem Solving
- Idea Exchange

The course is registered to the student's timetable at Term 1 which delivery of results and class activities will take place in. Project preliminary work include pre-programme(pre-trip) study plan, consultations, participation of learning programme, data collection and analysis are carried out at late-term-2 and the Summer of the preceding academic year.

Students will form an interdisciplinary group of four members. The pre-programme study plan helps student to identify during-programme(during-trip) project work such as data collection, visits, interviews, oral history, etc. They should report their progress to their supervisor during the summer as well as in relevant term 1 before delivering their result and conclusion. An Interim Progress Report (IPR) Form, as a check list of research progress, should be submit to project supervisor in August.

During the programme(trip), each student should write learning logs to record and reflect on their learning experiences relevant to their project topic. At the finalization stage, students will also submit a reflective essay on KSAV (knowledge, skills, attitude and value) and collaboration with teammates.

Students are expected to demonstrate the integration and application of the concepts and insights obtained from the learning programme. Different methodologies may be applied, such as literature review, survey, oral history, photovoice, interviews, field study, etc. Students will demonstrate their problem-solving skills and interdisciplinary collaboration, present their work in both oral and written form, exchange ideas with other groups in a rationale manner under a seminar context. Do read thoroughly the learning outcomes and grade descriptors.

Possible Schedule:

Phase 1 – Preparation and Planning: preceding 2nd Term (e.g. Y3T2)
    Feb – College JASP and E&D course introduction sessions.
        Apply for summer learning programme(trip) and undergo selection process – interview.
    Mar – Course pre-registration (subject to programme offer), form a group, identify a project topic.
    Late Mar to Early Apr – 1st meeting with course supervisor.
    April to Before Departure of Trip – Submit topic description and study plan.

Phase 2 – Inquiry and Analysis (carry out research): preceding Summer (e.g. Y3 Summer)
    Participate in learning programme.
    Conduct study, write learning logs, fulfill requirements specific to learning programme.
    Make appointment for consultations – seek advice, report progress.
    Submit Interim Progress Report (IPR) Form.

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 class lessons (Two Saturday half-day seminar).
    Sep to Dec – Submit project report, reflective essay and intra-group peer evaluation form.

The possible schedule in this section is for illustration only. The actual implementation plan is subject to the schedule of the learning programme, timeline of JASP, recommendation and requirement by individual supervisor as well as the nature of individual project.

Teaching & Learning Activities

Phase	Teaching & Learning Activity	Type / Hour (if applicable)
Preparation and Planning	First Meeting with Course Supervisor	In class / 2 hours
	Group Forming and Topic Formulation	Out of class
Inquiry and Analysis	Learning Programme	Out of class
	Proposal and Research	Out of class
	Consultations (at least three sessions)	Out of class / 3 hours
	Interim Progress Report	Out of class
Closure and Result Delivery	Interactive Tutorials: Presentation, Commentary and Discussion	In class / 4-7 hours
	Written report, Reflective Essay and Intra-Group Peer Evaluation	Out of class

Remarks: Hours of learning activities varies across different class sections subject to nature of project and recommendation from course supervisors.

Assessment Scheme

Phase	Assessment Type	Assessment Task	Percentage
Phase 1 Preparation and Planning May to July	Others	Learning Logs	5% (Individual)
	Project	Participation and fulfillment of requirements of the Learning Programme	10% (Individual)
Phase 2 Inquiry and Analysis July to August		Three consultations and Interim Progress Report	10% (Group)
Phase 3 Closure and Result Delivery September to October	Presentation	Oral presentation	20% (Individual)
	Discussion	Commentary	10% (Individual)
		Open discussion	10% (Individual)
	Report	Project report	20% (Group)
	Essay	Reflective essay	5% (Individual)
	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.

Grouping Criteria

Students shall divide into interdisciplinary teams of four members each, as per criteria below:
*   No duplication of major among members;
*   Members must come from at least two different faculties;
*   Not more than two members come from the same faculty.

Remarks:
*   IBBA students (maximum two in each group) should take their declared concentration area as their major differentiation in interdisciplinary team formation, i.e. the concentration area or the double concentration of the two IBBA students of the same team must be different.
*   Student from interfaculty undergraduate programmes, can choose one of their major for team formation:
    -   MIEG: Information Engineering | Engineering OR Mathematics | Science
    -   QFRM: Quantitative Finance | Business Administration OR Risk Management | Science
    -   GLEF: Global Economics | Business Administration OR Global Economics | Social Science
    -   BAJD: Business Administration | Business Administration OR Juris Doctor | Law

Course Schedule and Arrangements (Term 1)

Time Period	Particular
January to March	Application and Selection for the Learning Programme
April – May	First Meeting with Course Supervisor
During Learning Programme	Participation of the Learning Programme Submit Learning Logs
July	Submission of Proposal 1st Consultation with Course Supervisor
July to August	Conduct Study
August	Submission of Interim Progress Report 2nd Consultation with Course Supervisor

Time Period	Particular
Late August	Preparation on Results and Conclusion 3rd Consultation with Course Supervisor
First Term September to October	Friday Class Meetings: Presentation, Commentary and Discussion
Within 2 weeks after presentation	Submission of Project Report, Reflective Essay and Intra-group Peer Evaluation Form

Remarks: The following course materials can be downloaded from www.cuhk.edu.hk/ccc/ge/gecc3130:

- Learning Log Template
- Proposal Guidelines
- Interim Progress Report Form
- Project Report Guidelines
- Project Report Cover Page Template
- Reflective Essay Guidelines
- Intra-group Peer Evaluation Form

Class Rundown

	Flow of lesson	**Time allocation**
(i)	Presentation One group will present on of their study topic. The presenting group should email their presentation materials and outline to all other students with cc copy to course supervisor 7 days before their presentation.	30 minutes
(ii)	Commentary Another group, the commentary group, will comment on the presentation.	10 minutes
(iii)	Discussion: Open to all groups	10 minutes
(iv)	Conclusion By course supervisor	5 minutes
Break between presentations		5 minutes
Likewise arrangement for 2nd or 3rd Presentations		60 minutes

Post-presentation written works submission

1) Group Project Report
A final written report of each group (that includes the findings as well as the feedback collected during discussions) should be submitted to the teacher.

1.1 Format
- The report can be written in either Chinese or English.
- All reports must be type written on standard A4 white paper in double line spacing with font size at point 12 and margins of 2 cm.
- The length of the report should be between 4,000 and 6,000 words (excluding bibliography and appendices).
- All reports must include full references, quotations, notes and bibliography for sources cited.
- Use the *Cover Page Template* downloadable at College GE website.

1.2 Content
- **Introduction**: Why your group is interested in this project and some background information.
- **Purpose and rationale of the study**: What does your group want to achieve through this project and the rationales behind.
- **Question(s)**: What specifically you want to find out?
- **Literature review**: an account of what has been discussed and published on a topic.
- **Learning from the study trip**: learnings and insights from the trip; follow-up integration, processing and analysis of the information/data you obtained from the trip.
- **Methodology (and ethical considerations if any)**: the study design, data collection and analysis; what are the benefits and limitations about the process, any ethical consideration when conducting the study?
- **Findings and interpretation**: a detailed discussion of the results.
- **Implications/recommendations**: any workable solution or new development?
- References / Bibliography; Appendices and/or Supplemental materials, if any.

1.3 Submission
- **Upload to VeriGuide:** All students of the same group should be asked to sign the declaration, each of whom is responsible 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.
- **Submission to course supervisor:** The project report, together with its signed (all members) declaration form should be submitted to course teacher via the specified means.

- - **Submission to Blackboard:** A duplicate of Project Report must be uploaded to the designated Blackboard website for all GECC3130 classes.

2) Reflective Essay
- Not less than 800 words.
- Can be written in either Chinese or English.
- Three core ideas: KSAV, personal growth, team collaboration.
- Students can write their positive and/or negative views.
- *"Reflective Essay Guidelines"* is available at the College GE website.

3) Intra-group Peer Evaluation
- Students have to use the provided *"Intra-Group Peer Evaluation Form"* to conduct Intra-group Peer Evaluation, which is available at the College GE website.
- Students should self-evaluate and evaluate all groupmates.
- Written comment is required for each evaluation.
- Additional justification is required when giving a very high or very low total score.
- See "How to use the Rubrics" on the form before completing the evaluation.

Required and recommended readings

Required readings:
Beard, C. (2010). *The Experiential Learning Toolkit: Blending Practice with Concepts.* London: Kogan Page.
and to be assigned by course teacher

Recommended readings:
Babbie, Earl R. (2016) *The Practice of Social Research.* (14th ed.). MA : Cengage Learning
Kolb, David A. (2015) *Experiential Learning: Experience as the Source of Learning and Development.* Second ed. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Pearson Education.
Mikk, B., & Steglitz, I. (2017). *Learning across cultures: Locally and globally* (Third ed.). Washington, DC: NAFSA: Association of International Educators : Stylus Publishing, LLC.
and to be assigned by course teacher

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.

- In the case of group projects, all members of the group should be asked to sign the declaration, each of whom is responsible and liable to disciplinary actions, irrespective of whether he/she has signed the declaration and whether he/she has contributed, directly or indirectly, to the problematic 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.

- Students are fully aware of the AI approach(es) adopted in the course. In the case where some AI tools are allowed, students have made proper acknowledgment and citations as instructed by the course teacher.

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.

The copyright of the teaching materials, including lecture notes, assignments and examination questions etc., produced by staff members/ teachers of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) belongs to CUHK. Students may download the teaching materials produced by the staff members/ teachers from the Learning Management Systems, e.g. Blackboard adopted by CUHK for their own educational use, but shall not distribute/ share/ copy the materials to a third-party without seeking prior permission from the staff members/ teachers concerned.

Contact details for course supervisor

Name:	
Office Location:	
Telephone:	
Email:	
Other information:	College GE Website: www.cuhk.edu.hk/ccc/ge College GE Office Email: cccge@cuhk.edu.hk College GE Office Location: M/F Chung Chi Admin. Building