

City University of Hong Kong

**Information on a Course
offered by Department of English
with effect from Semester A in 2009 / 2010**

This form is for completion by the Course Co-ordinator/Examiner. The information provided on this form will be deemed to be the official record of the details of the course. It has multipurpose use: for the University's database, and for publishing in various University publications including the Blackboard, and documents for students and others as necessary.

Please refer to the Explanatory Notes attached to this Form on the various items of information required.

Part I

Course Title: Independent Study

Course Code: EN6472

Course Duration: 1 Semester

No. of Credit Units: 3

Level: P6

Medium of instruction: English

Prerequisites: Nil

Precursors: EN6471 Research Methods

Equivalent Courses: Nil

Exclusive Courses: Nil

Part II

1. Course Aims:

This course aims at enabling students to conduct independent library research on a chosen topic of interest in TESL. Students will learn the library research skills to identify a topic of interest in TESL, to follow library research procedure to find relevant research articles on the topic, and to conduct independent critical reading of the articles to critically summarize and evaluate a selection of existing literature in the field. Students will then generate a set of research questions on the topic.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

(state what the student is expected to be able to do at the end of the course according to a given standard of performance)

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

No.	CILOs	Weighting (if applicable)
1.	follow a set of library research procedure to find relevant research articles on a chosen topic of interest in TESL	N/A
2.	identify a list of key research references on the chosen topic	N/A
3.	analyse and evaluate the research literature and write a critical review of the research literature	N/A
4.	identify the gaps in the existing research literature on the topic and generate a set of new research questions on the topic to address the gaps	N/A

3. Teaching and learning Activities (TLAs)

(designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs)

This section is indicative of likely activities and tasks students will undertake to learn in this course. Final details will be provided to students in their first week of attendance in this course.

CILO No	TLAs	Weeks (if applicable)
CILO 1	<p>Students will learn to follow a set of procedure to conduct library research to identify relevant research references on a chosen topic of interest through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) attending an interactive library research workshop delivered by an instructor from the Library; b) hands-on tasks that guide the students in following library research procedure to locate different resources c) guided out-of-class library research tasks. <p>Students will also be provided with informative handouts with examples and guidelines on how to follow the procedure to conduct independent library research to identify references on a chosen topic from different resources</p>	
CILO 2	Through individual consultation with the instructor (face-to-face and/or online), students will be guided in creating a list of key references on their chosen topic.	
CILOs 3-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Students conduct independent reading of the research references, write drafts of critical reviews of the research references, and send their drafts to the instructor for individual feedback. (b) Students write drafts of research questions and send their drafts to the instructor for individual feedback. 	

4. Assessment Tasks/Activities

(designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs)

This section is indicative of likely activities and tasks students will undertake to learn in this course. Final details will be provided to students in their first week of attendance in this course.

CILO No	Type of assessment tasks/activities	Weighting (if applicable)	Remarks
CILO 1-4	Draft of Research References on a Chosen Topic Students will send in a draft of a list of 15 research references on a chosen topic	5% of course grade	
	Draft of Critical Summaries Research References Students will send in at least one draft of their critical reviews of research references on a chosen topic	5% of course grade	
	Draft of Research Questions Students will send in at least one draft of their research questions on a chosen topic	5% of course grade	
CILO 3-4	A Critical Review of 15 Research Articles on a Chosen Topic Students will critically analyze (i.e., to describe, summarize and evaluate) 15 research articles on a self-chosen topic in TESL research and write a critical review of these 15 references (Length of the review: approximately 15-20 double-spaced pages, not including references, font size 12, margins: 1 inch each).	75% of course grade	
	A List of New Research Questions Students will create a list of at least three new research questions to address the gaps identified in the research literature critically reviewed.	10% of course grade	

5. **Grading of Student Achievement:** Refer to Grading of Courses in the Academic Regulations (Attachment) and to the Explanatory Notes.

Grading pattern: Standard (A+, A, A-....F). Grading is based on student performance in assessment tasks/activities.

Part III

Keyword Syllabus:

Independent library research, writing literature review, designing research questions.

Recommended Readings:

(To be assigned by Instructor according to the self-chosen research topics of individual students)

Returned by:

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Date: August 10, 2008

Revised by Dr Angel Lin on 24 December 2009