SOCI 4020B: Graduation Thesis (II)

Department of Sociology
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

AY2024-25 Term 2

Tuesdays 10:30-13:15
Yasumoto Int'l Acad Park 501

Contact Information

Instructor: Professor LEE Jaemin
E-mail: jaeminlee@cuhk.edu.hk
Office hours: By appointment
Office: Sino Building Room 418

Teaching Assistant: Ms. CHAN Hiu Sze Vincci
E-mail: vinchan@link.cuhk.edu.hk
Office hours: By appointment
Office: Sino Building Room 424

Course Description

Graduation Thesis is a required course for the four-year curriculum and is intended for final-year students. This is a two-term course (SOCI 4010B & 4020B), and students are expected to conduct research in small groups under the supervision of our faculty members. As a capstone course, the objective is to help students integrate their sociology knowledge and research skills. In Term 2, students will focus on the execution of the research, data collection and analysis, and results interpretation. Students should complete an individual or a group research paper in a form similar to an academic journal article.

Course Schedule

We are not meeting every week. Please carefully mark your calendar to ensure you're not missing any or coming to an empty classroom!

Date	Venue	Activity
Jan-07 **Jan-14**	Sino 418	Consultation meeting (1) • Feedback on the proposal: Discuss the feasibility of the empirical research design and data collection strategies • January 7: Teams 2, 4, 6 | January 14: Teams 1, 3, 5, 7
Jan-21 **Jan-28**	Sino 418	Consultation meeting (2) • Submit a comprehensive summary of the revised and complete plan of your research execution • January 21: Teams 2, 4, 6 | January 28: Teams 1, 3, 5, 7
Mar-11 **Mar-18**	YIAC 501	Sharing session: Progress report • Present the progress of data collection and preliminary findings

		• Attend only one of the two sessions (March 11: Teams 2, 4, 6 | March 18: Teams 1, 3, 5, 7)
Apr-01 **Apr-08**	YIAC 501	Thesis presentation • Attendance by everyone

Assessment and Grading (Term 2)

The grade for the course will be calculated as a weighted average of the following components:

Attendance	10%
Sharing session presentation	15%
Thesis presentation	25%
Thesis manuscript	50%

- Attendance (10%)
    - In the case of absence or tardiness for the meeting you are supposed to attend, scores will be deducted individually.

- Sharing session (15%)
    - Present research progress and preliminary findings
    - Assessment criteria of the presentation TBA

- Thesis presentation (25%)
    - 30 minutes (20 mins for presentation + 10 mins for Q&A) per team
    - Key will be the degree to which you address the comments and concerns you received in the sharing session

- Thesis manuscript (50%)
    - Due: **May 8 11:59 pm**.
    - Format
        - Length: Up to 8,000 words (no minimum limit), excluding the references, appendix, tables, figures, footnotes.
        - Place tables and figures between paragraphs where relevant.
        - Font: Times New Roman/Arial; Size 12 pitch.
        - Single-spaced;1 inch for all margins.
        - Only one submission per team via Blackboard.
        - Veriguide check is required for the main body of text (i.e. pages excluding references)
    - Assessment criteria and rubrics TBA
    - Group matter
        - For teams with multiple members, team members should contribute equally to the thesis. In practice, it is often the case that a few, more diligent, members do most or all of the work—in which case we might want to acknowledge and reflect such differences for assessment. In case the work balance is disputed, I can intervene by requesting an additional document that indicates the contribution of each team member to the team effort.

Grading

Grade Descriptors
A   Excellent: Outstanding performance on all learning outcomes.
A-   Very Good: Generally outstanding performance on all (or almost all) learning outcomes.
B   Good: Substantial performance on all learning outcomes, OR high performance on some learning outcomes which compensates for less satisfactory performance on others, resulting in overall substantial performance.
C   Fair: Satisfactory performance on the majority of learning outcomes, possibly with a few weaknesses.
D   Pass: Barely satisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes.
F   Failure: Unsatisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes, OR failure to meet specified assessment requirements.

Academic Honesty

Please keep in mind the university's policy on academic honesty. Plagiarism will not be tolerated in the term paper and assignments. The ideas and language should be your own, and any outside sources must be clearly and properly cited. There are severe consequences if you commit any acts of academic dishonesty. In addition to the department's policy and guidelines for citations, please refer to the university-level disciplinary guidelines and procedures. The Faculty of Social Science has also compiled a handout to alert students of the importance of academic honesty and the consequences of violating the University's Rules. To this end, the newspaper commentary assignment should be submitted to VeriGuide.