Graduate School Courses

GRSC6001
Introduction to Thesis Writing

Content:

The course will consider all aspects of writing a thesis. It will look at the overall organisation of the thesis and writing an abstract, as well as the content, organisation and language used in each chapter. It will cover how to formulate research questions and how to acknowledge sources. It will also discuss the writing of a research proposal.

Organisation:

This is a twenty-four hour course, consisting of 2 two-hour lessons each week over a period of six weeks. Each lesson will consist of brief input sessions from the teacher followed by small group discussions of texts which illustrate the points covered in the input sessions. There will be short exercises to practice the points covered.

Enrolment:

This course is compulsory for all MPhil students enrolling in or after September 1999, and is open to all other postgraduate students up to a maximum of 30 per class.

Assessment:

Assessment will take the form of a 2000-word paper related to the student's research area. The topic should be chosen by the student, preferably in collaboration with his/her supervisor, and the paper must be submitted to the English Centre for assessment within 2 weeks of completion of the course. The student will be graded Pass or Fail on the basis of this paper.

Date and Time

Class A   Monday and Thursday
             3 - 5 pm
             September 13 - October 25 1999

Class B   Tuesday and Friday
             10:40 am - 12:30 pm
             September 14 - October 26 1999

Class C   Monday and Thursday
             3 - 5 pm
             November 8 - December 16 1999

Class D   Tuesday and Friday
             10:40 am - 12:30 pm
             November 9 - December 17 1999

Class E#   Tuesday and Thursday
             6 - 8 pm
             November 9 - December 16 1999

Class F   Monday and Thursday
             3 - 5 pm
             February 14 - March 27 2000

Class G   Tuesday and Friday
             10:40 am - 12:30 pm
             February 5 - March 24 2000

Class H #   Thursday
and I #   6 - 8 pm
             Saturday
             10:40 am - 12:30 pm
             February 17 - March 30 2000

Class J   Tuesday and Friday
             10:40 am - 12:30 pm
             April 11 - May 23 2000

Class K   Monday, Wednesday and Friday
             9:30 am - 12:30 pm
             May 31 - June 16 2000

GRSC6002
Writing Workshops I

Content:

This course will cover those language points which have been observed to cause the greatest problems in students' writing as incorrect use leads to misunderstandings or ambiguities and makes the writing difficult to read.

The course will concentrate on how to create cohesive text by correct use of paragraph development, given-new information structure, vocabulary and pronoun reference. It will also look at the importance of certain grammatical choices, such as verb tense and voice, subordination and co-ordination and relative clauses. There will be provision for students to suggest other points to cover.

Organisation:

This is an eight-hour course, consisting of one weekly two-hour lesson over a period of four weeks. Each lesson will consist of brief input sessions from the teacher with small group discussions of examples and exercises allowing for the maximum amount of practice.

Enrolment:

Each offering of the module is limited to a maximum of 30 students.

Assessment:

Assessment will take the form of continuous assessment of classroom-based exercises and/ or a short exam at the end of the course. Students will be graded Pass or Fail on the basis of this work.

Date and Time

Class IA   Tuesday   10:40 am – 12:30 pm
September 21 - October 12 1999

Class IB   Friday   3 – 5 pm
September 17 - October 15 1999

Class IC   Tuesday   10:40 am – 12:30 pm
November 9 - 30 1999

Class ID#   Tuesday   6 – 8 pm
February 15 - March 7 2000

Class IE   Friday   3 – 5 pm
February 18 - March 10 2000

GRSC6003
Writing Workshops II

Content:

This course will cover those language points which are of particular relevance to thesis writing. It will concentrate on citation techniques and reporting verbs; tentative language needed for criticising others and making claims about research findings; paraphrasing techniques; and summarising techniques.

NOTE

This course should preferably be taken after Core Course I (Introduction to Thesis Writing) has been completed as it will be largely based on concepts that have been introduced in that course and will allow for more practice of the language previously introduced.

Organisation:

This is an eight-hour course, consisting of one weekly two-hour lesson over a period of four weeks. Each lesson will consist of brief input sessions from the teacher with small group discussions of examples and exercises allowing for maximum amount of practice.

Enrolment:

Each offering of the module is limited to a maximum of 30 students.

Assessment:

Assessment will take the form of continuous assessment of classroom-based exercises and/ or a short exam at the end of the course. Students will be graded Pass or Fail on the basis of this work.

Date and Time

Class IIA   Friday   3 – 5 pm
October 22 - November 12 1999

Class IIB   Friday   3 – 5 pm
November 19 - December 10 1999

Class IIC   Friday   3 – 5 pm
February 18 - March 10 2000

Class IID   Friday   3 – 5 pm
March 24 - April 14 2000

Class IIE# Tuesday   6 – 8 pm
April 11 - May 2 2000

Class IIF   Friday   3 – 5 pm
April 28 - May 19 2000

GRSC6004
Oral English for Academic Purposes

Content:

This course will teach students the skills required to make an effective academic presentation in English. It will provide students with the opportunity to practice presentations in front of a small audience. These presentations will be videotaped to allow for self-assessment and detailed individual feedback from the teacher.

Organisation:

This is an eight-hour course, consisting of one weekly two-hour lesson over a period of four weeks. Examples of presentations will be shown to introduce the skills being taught and students will then be able to give presentations to put the skills into practice.

Enrolment:

Each offering of the module is limited to a maximum of 30 students.

Assessment:

Assessment will be in the form of continuous assessment of presentations given during the course.

Date and Time

Class A   Tuesday   10:40 am – 12:30 pm
September 21 - October 12 1999

Class B	Tuesday	10:40 am – 12:30 pm
	November 9 - 30 1999	
Class C	Friday	3 – 5 pm
	March 24 - April 14 2000	
Class D#	Tuesday	6 – 8 pm
	May 9 - 30 2000	

GRSC6005
Introduction to Statistics for Humanities Students

Content:

Basic statistical concepts to allow students to make good sense of the statistical figures and numbers they are exposed to in daily life. The following topics will be covered in the courses: Presentation of data, Measures of central tendency and dispersion, Probability and its applications, Standard probability distributions, Concepts of statistical inference, estimation and hypothesis testing, Categorical data and contingency table.

Organisation:

Each offering of the module comprises eight hours (two hours per week for four weeks, or a 1-2 day workshop). The module is offered twice per year.

Enrolment:

Enrolment in the module is not limited to Humanities students, but is restricted to students who have no, or a very limited, background in mathematics/statistics. There is no formal limit to the number of students who can enrol in this module.

Assessment:

Pass/Fail: Continuous assessment and/or exam.

Date and Time

Class A	Monday	
	10:40 am – 12:30 pm	
	November 1 - 22 1999	
Class B	Tuesday	
	4 – 6 pm	
	February 15 - March 7 2000	

GRSC6006
Statistics for Sciences Students

Content:

The course will cover the following topics: Statistical concepts, Experimental designs and analysis of variance, Regression analysis: Simple linear regression and multiple regression, Logistic regression.

Organisation:

Each offering of the module comprises eight hours (two hours per week for four weeks, or a 1-2 day workshop). The module is offered twice per year.

Enrolment:

This module is designed for students who have had some contact with statistics in their undergraduate years (including, but not restricted to, Engineering, Life Sciences, Sciences, and Social Sciences). There is no formal limit to the number of students who can enrol in this module.

Assessment:

Pass/Fail: Continuous assessment and/or exam

Date and Time

Class A	Monday	10:40 am – 12:30 pm
	September 13 - October 4 1999	
Class B	Tuesday	4 – 6 pm
	March 21 - April 18 2000	

GRSC6007
Data Analysis & Management

Content:

Based on students' basic knowledge in measurement and statistical concepts, this course aims to equip students with computer-aided skills in organising, transforming and analysing data. It emphasises proper usage of data analysis by computer software and intelligent interpretation of results, through hands-on learning during and after classes. An interactive data analysis module with mouse and menus, SAS/INSIGHT, will be used in the course.

Organisation:

Each offering of the module comprises eight hours (two hours per week for four weeks, or a 1-2 day workshop). The module is offered once per year.

Enrolment:

There is no formal limit to the number of students who can enrol in this module.

Assessment:

Pass/Fail: Report on manipulation of a data set.

Date and Time

Wednesday 6 – 8 pm#
September 15 - October 6 1999

GRSC6008
Transferable Skills

Content:

This course aims at providing essential survival skills for postgraduate students and to prepare them to manage pro-actively the major blocks in their study. The major skills fall into four areas including managing relationship with supervisor, time management, communication for effect and oral presentation. Each student is encouraged to fully participate in the exercises and discussions. They will be given chances to practice their skills openly. No matter the skill-level of the students, they will find this course an excellent investment to obtain a more successful learning experience.

Organisation:

Each offering of the module comprises eight hours (two hours per week for four weeks). The module is offered six times per year, including once after office hours in each semester to cater for part-time students.

Enrolment:

Each offering of the module is limited to a maximum of 30 students. PhD students and MPhil students who registered prior to September 1999 may also enrol.

Assessment:

1. Participation in class activities and role-play performance (60%)
2. Homework exercise and assignment (40%)

Date and Time

Class A	Wednesday 2 – 4 pm September 15 - October 6 1999
Class B	Wednesday 2 – 4 pm October 13 - November 3 1999
Class C#	Wednesday 6 – 8 pm November 10 - December 1 1999
Class D	Monday 10:40 am – 12:30 pm February 14 - March 6 2000
Class E	Monday 10:40 am – 12:30 pm March 13 - April 3 2000
Class F#	Wednesday 6 – 8 pm April 12 - May 3 2000

GRSC6009
Ethics and Research

Content:

This module introduces students to some of the ethical complexities and issues that challenge researchers today. We will explore moral problems that typically arise in research not only in the humanities and social sciences, but also in the natural sciences. The complex field of bioethics will receive particular attention as well. Out of the case studies and discussions that will form the basis for each class, we will generate moral principles and strategies through a critical introduction to ethical theory that will be worthwhile to students in their research and careers.

Organisation:

Each offering of the module comprises eight hours (two hours per week for four weeks, or a 1-2 day workshop). The module is offered once per year.

Enrolment:

There is no formal limit to the number of students who can enrol in this module.

Assessment:

Pass/Fail: written assignment

Date and Time

Monday   4 – 6 pm
October 4 - November 1 1999

GRSC6010
Logic and Critical Thinking

Content:

This module aims to develop students' logical and critical reasoning skills, and to enable them to apply these skills in conducting and evaluating scientific research. Students are introduced to concepts and skills in the construction and analysis of logical arguments, such as critical questioning, 'lateral thinking', deduction and induction, problem solving, research writing, and the like. These skills in critical thinking are then applied to the conduct and evaluation of scientific research, including issues in setting up hypotheses and testing, in scientific methods, in the conduct and interpretation of experiments, and the like. The module explores different paradigms of research, and the epistemological and ethical assumptions which underlie each, in order that students will be able to conduct and evaluate research logically and critically.

Organisation:

Each offering of the module comprises eight hours (two hours per week for four weeks). The module is offered once per year.

Enrolment:

There is no formal limit to the number of students who can enrol in this module.

Assessment:

Pass/Fail: written assignment

Date and Time

Thursday   10:40 am – 12:30 pm
September 16 - October 7 1999

GRSC6011
Safety in the Research Environment

Content:

To provide a broad overview of safety practice in the laboratory environment. Safety ordinances, laboratory code of safe practice, environmental protection and laboratory waste, radiation protection, chemical and biological hazards, use of laser radiation in laboratory. Insurance and risks.

Organisation:

Each offering of the module comprises eight hours. It is a one day workshop. The module is offered once per year.

Enrolment:

There is no formal limit to the number of students who can enrol in this module.

Assessment:

Pass/Fail: Continuous assessment and/or one hour exam

Date and Time

Saturday   9 am – 6 pm
December 11 1999

GS9901-05
Computer Induction Programme

A good working familiarity with PCs and the University network is essential if you are to take advantage of the facilities which are intended to help you with your research and the timely completion of your thesis. Each course listed below has 25 places and consists of a half day session:

- Introduction to the PC and MS Windows 95 (3 hours)
- Network Services (3 hours)
- Microsoft Excel 5.0 for Windows 95 (3 hours)
- Microsoft Word 6.0 for Windows 95 (3 hours)
- Microsoft Powerpoint 4.0 for Windows 95 (3 hours)

Date and Time

Class A

GS9901A	9:30 am – 12:30 pm Tuesday, Oct 5, 1999
GS9902A	2 – 5 pm Thursday, Oct 7, 1999
GS9903A	9:30 am – 12:30 pm Tuesday, Oct 12, 1999
GS9904A	2 – 5 pm Thursday, Oct 14, 1999
GS9905A	9:30 am – 12:30 pm Tuesday, Oct 19, 1999

Class B

GS9901B	9:30 am – 12:30 pm Monday, Feb 21, 2000
GS9902B	2 – 5 pm Wednesday, Feb 23, 2000
GS9903B	9:30 am – 12:30 pm Friday, Feb 25, 2000
GS9904B	9:30 am – 12:30 pm Monday, Feb 28, 2000
GS9905B	2 – 5 pm Wednesday, March 1, 2000

Class C

GS9901C	2 – 5 pm Thursday, April 6, 2000
GS9902C	9:30 am – 12:30 pm Tuesday, April 11, 2000
GS9903C	2 – 5 pm Thursday, April 13, 2000
GS9904C	9:30 am – 12:30 pm Tuesday, April 18, 2000
GS9905C	2 – 5 pm Thursday, April 20, 2000

GS9906
Encouraging Student Participation in Tutorials

Active involvement of students in the learning process is a highly valued aspect of university education. This workshop will introduce to tutors a number of effective strategies for encouraging student participation in class activities. They include: seating arrangements, sub-grouping, discussion, questioning and responding, opening and closing a tutorial, and ways to deal with problem incidents.

Date and Time

Friday 1:30 – 4:30 pm
September 24 1999

"The Research Student Induction Programme aims to provide an introduction to the University facilities and services..."

GS9907
Stimulating Creative Thinking

Content

One of our most valuable intellectual skills is the ability to think creatively. In this lively 3-hour session, we will examine the nature of creativity and how it is important to thinking and problem solving. A number of experiential exercises will be used to explore the psychological factors that affect creativity and how we must consider these factors within the context of teaching and learning.

Date and Time

Friday   1:30 – 4:30 p.m.
October 8 1999

GS9908
Preparing and Delivering Effective Presentations

There is an art to presenting information in a dynamic and stimulating manner. Like any art form a high degree of skill can only be achieved through repeated practice. However there are a number of rules of good practice which may help the inexperienced presenter to develop skill as quickly as possible. This workshop explores some of those rules and provides participants with an opportunity to critique their efforts within a supportive environment.

Date and Time

Friday   1:30 – 4:30 p.m.
22 October 1999

GS9909
Giving Constructive Feedback to Students

Feedback is essential to effective learning. It can facilitate understanding, motivate learning and guide development. This workshop will engage participants in identifying effective ways to promote student learning through the use of grades and verbal comments.

Date and Time

Friday   1:30 – 4:30 p.m.
5 November 1999

Eligibility and Enrolment

From 1999-2000, newly registered MPhil students are required to complete the coursework component in the New MPhil curricula. Existing research postgraduate students (including F/T & P/T) may also take courses organized by the Graduate School.

Relevant Course Brochures and Application Forms for newly regietered MPhil students and continuing MPhil and PhD students, are available in all Faculty/Department offices and the Graduate School offices.

To enrol for the above courses and Induction Programmes, please complete the required application form and return it <u>IN PERSON</u> to The Graduate School Office between 9 am – 8 pm on September 1 – 4, 1999 (Wednesday – Saturday). Please note that your application is subject to availability of places.

The Graduate School is located in P402-P406 Graduate House. We can be contacted at:

Tel.: 2857-3470   Fax: 2857-3543
Email: research@hkucc.hku.hk
URL: http://www.hku.hk/research

Research Student Induction Programme 1999

The Induction Programme for all newly registered research students will take place on Saturday September 18 at 9.30a.m. in Rm 217 Main Building. It will begin with a welcome from the Dean of the Graduate School, Professor Howell Tong, and the Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor Felix Wu will give a closing remark to all research postgraduate students.

The programme is designed to provide an introduction to the University's facilities and services - including the new MPhil curricula - that are designed to help research students conduct their research, complete their theses, and develop their personal skills. It will also provide an opportunity for new students to meet fellow students in faculties other than their own, the staff in charge of various University units, and to attend the Information Fair, which will be held during lunch time.

The Programme will finish by 12:30 pm, immediately followed by lunch and Information Fair, which will take place in the Convocation Room, Main Building. Refreshments and lunch are provided free!

All new research students should receive a personal invitation during August, if they do not they should contact the Graduate School.