Course Syllabus

Class/Department：International Program on Urban Governance
Course Title: Research Methods
Grade(應修系級)：Master degree students
Type: ☑ Required ☐Selective   ☐ Whole ☑Half
Credits: 3
Course Number:
Prerequisite Course: No
Course Description:

Course Objective:

This is a required course for master students in the International Program of Urban Governance. The goal of this course is to provide students with the essential knowledge needed to conduct scientific research, to review the advantages and disadvantages of different research methods, and to prepare students with the skills to develop a master thesis proposal in the field of urban governance, which is a partial requirement for graduation from the program. To achieve the goal, the instructor will provide lectures and the students are expected to complete class assignments and actively participate in-class discussion. At the end of the semester, each student will apply the knowledge and skills learned from the class to develop their own research proposal.

Course Outline: (including teaching schedule):

   After this course, students are expected to have acquired the following

achievements:

1.   Understand the process of conducting social science studies
2.   Demonstrate the skills of conducting a literature review
3.   Recognize the advantages of various quantitative and qualitative research methods
4.   Write focused questions for interviews and surveys
5.   Recognize ethical issues that arise in conducting research
6.   Develop a reasonable research proposal
7.   Report on one's own research proposal in a clear and professional manner

Teaching Topics and Schedule:

1. Introduction of Conducting Scientific Research
2. Research Questions and Research Methodology
3. From research ideas to research project: Process of conducting a research project
4. How to do literature review
5. Research methods: data collection and analysis
6. Case studies
7. Elementary Statistics -1
8. Elementary Statistics -2
9. Survey and Questionnaire -1
10. Survey and Questionnaire -2
11. Qualitative interviews -1
12. Qualitative interviews -2
13. Network analysis
14. Simulation
15. Research Ethics
16. How to write a research proposal
17. Presentation of research

學生核心能力權重：八項加總為100，不需每項均得填寫，惟至少需填一項

Item	Creative thinking and Problem-solving	Comprehensive integration 綜合統整	Communication and Coordination	Team cooperation 團隊合作
Weight	30	40	20	
Item	Integrity and Upright 誠信正直	Respect and Reflection 尊重自省	Diverse care 多元關懷	Cross-border cooperation 跨界合作
Weight	10			

Career Development:

After the training of this course, students are expected to develop the capacity and skills to identify and solve research problems with appropriate quantitative and qualitative methods independently. This capacity will enable students to take various positions that require independent research and problem solving skills, such as research fellow, policy consultant, and policy planner.

Evaluation Methods:

Requirements and Evaluation

In this course, students are required to attend the class every week, and are expected to meet the following requirements:
1. Read assigned readings of each week before the class meets;
2. Develop a research project associate with the issue of urban governance based on their own research interests;
3. Conduct literature review on their topic of interest;
4. Exercise the various research methods learned during the semester;
5. Complete and submit the works assigned in class;
6. Engage in-class discussion and provide feedbacks to classmates' research design
7. Present their research proposal in class, and
8. Submit a written research proposal at the end of the semester.

Readings:

Required:

Creswell, John W. (2013). *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches*. London: Sage.

Supplements:

Flick, Uwe (2009). *An introduction to qualitative research*. London: Sage.
Goertz, Gary & James Mahoney (2012). *A tale of two cultures: qualitative and quantitative research in the social sciences*. N.J. :Princeton University Press.
Hart, Chris (1998). *Doing a literature review: releasing the social science research imagination*. London: Sage.
Healey, J. F. (1993). *Statistics: A Tool for Social Research*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing Company.
Scott, John (2000). *Social Network Analysis: A handbook*, London: Sage.
Yin, Robert (2009). *Case study research: design and methods*. London: Sage.