

Subject Description Form

Subject Code	BRE467
Subject Title	Directed Study
Credit Value	3
Level	4
Pre-requisite /	Attainment of Grade A or above in BRE477 Dissertation
Objectives	<p>This subject aims to equip outstanding students, in collaboration with the supervisors, with the opportunity to further develop their dissertations into academic refereed papers. The students will be made aware of the academic convention, referee review process, public presentation techniques, commentary and defense skills etc. throughout a series of meetings. The students are required to organize seminars and present their papers publicly. Each of the students will be assigned with a paper for discussion at the seminars. The targeted audience of the seminars includes perspective employers in the building and real estate industries, supervisors of higher degree studies in tertiary education institutions, senior members in the professional bodies, participants of the Mentorship Schemes and undergraduate students who are preparing for their dissertations.</p>
Intended Learning Outcomes	<p>Upon completion of the subject, students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) produce academic papers to be considered by refereed journals, b) present their work to the public, c) make commentary to other studies, d) address questions / comments raised, and make defenses against critics, and e) organize a seminar to disseminate their presentations
Subject Synopsis/ Indicative Syllabus	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identification of study, co-authors and journals. The students are expected to develop an academic paper based on their dissertation studies. They should consult and invite their supervisors, other faculty members and other people deemed appropriate to be their co-authors. A targeted journal should be identified such that the editorial requirements etc. can be followed. 2. Comprehension of publication process. The students will appreciate the academic convention, peer review process and manuscript preparation requirements etc. 3. Peer review. The students will be able to review other students' papers and address the questions raised by the reviewers. 4. Making academic presentation. The students will be made aware of the techniques of making academic presentation effectively. These include the uses of slides, texts, pictures, tables, diagrams and multimedia aids. Special attentions will be put on the articulation of ideas, formulation of arguments and drawing concluding remarks. 5. Commentary. The students will be equipped with the essential skill set for being an effective discussant in academic conference. 6. Organizing seminar. The students are required to organize two public seminars, one in building and one in real estate discipline, entirely by themselves.

Teaching/Learning Methodology

Lectures – cover the topics in the indicative syllabus.

Tutorials – hands on activities will be arranged, such as reviewing papers and mock-up presentations etc.

Role Play – students will be asked to act as a reviewer and produce a reviewer’s report for a paper of their peers.

Public Seminars – students will be asked to organize the public seminars by themselves and present their papers publicly. Each of them will be assigned a paper of their peer for discussion. The presenters are required to address the questions and comments raised at the seminars.

Assessment Methods in Alignment with Intended Learning Outcomes

Specific assessment methods/tasks	% weighting	Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed (Please tick as appropriate)					
		a	b	c	d	e	
1. Reviewing Process	30 %	√		√	√		
2. Seminar Organization	20 %					√	
3. Public Presentation	30 %	√	√				
4. Addressing Critics	20 %		√		√		
Total	100 %						

Explanation of the appropriateness of the assessment methods in assessing the intended learning outcomes:

Reviewing Process – The students are required to prepare a paper that will be reviewed by their peers. The rigorousness of their own work, comprehension of others’ studies and the understanding of the salient requirements of a typical paper reviewing process will be assessed.

Seminar Organization – The students are required to organize the public seminars by themselves. Their teamwork and individual efforts will be assessed. Areas of work to be covered include program rundown design, sending invitations, promotion and logistical arrangements etc.

Public Presentation – Both the presentations of their own studies and the discussions of others’ papers will be assessed. Areas to be assessed include the articulations of ideas, use of presentation materials, styles and time control etc.

Addressing Critics – The responses to the comments and questions raised at the seminars will be assessed. Areas to be assessed include the comprehensions of questions / comments, appropriateness of arguments and defense skills etc.

Student Study Effort Required	Class contact:	
	▪ Lectures / public seminars	10 Hrs.
	▪ Tutorials	20 Hrs.
	Other student study effort:	
	▪ Independent study	60 Hrs.
	▪ Group work / seminar organization	30 Hrs.
	Total student study effort	120 Hrs.
Reading List and References	<p>Bailey, Kenneth D. 1994. <i>Methods of social research</i>. 4th ed. Free Press.</p> <p>Chau, K.W., John Raftery and Antony Walker. 1998. The baby and the bathwater: Research methods in construction management. <i>Construction Management and Economics</i>. 16(1):99-104.</p> <p>Dunleavy, Patrick. 2003. <i>Authoring a Ph.D.</i> p.227-251. Palgrave.</p> <p>Fellows, Richard and Anita Liu. 2008. <i>Research methods for construction</i>. 3rd ed. Blackwell.</p> <p>Knight, A. and L. Ruddock. 2008. <i>Advanced Research Methods in the Built Environment</i>. Wiley-Blackwell</p> <p>Levitt, R.E. 2007. CEM research for the next 50 years: Maximizing economic, environmental, and societal value of the built environment. <i>Journal of Construction Engineering and Management</i>. 133(9):619-28.</p> <p><i>The Chicago manual of style</i>. 2010. 16th ed. The University of Chicago Press.</p> <p>Thomas, William. 2001. <i>A guide for the young economist</i>. MIT Press.</p> <p>Websites of various journals. See Instructions for authors, Guide for authors, Submit a manuscript, Submit article, Style guidelines etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ASCE Journal of Construction Engineering and Management</i> • <i>ASCE Journal of Management in Engineering</i> • <i>ASCE Journal of Urban Planning and Development</i> • <i>Automation in Construction</i> • <i>Building Research and Information</i> • <i>Construction Management and Economics</i> • <i>Construction Law Journal</i> • <i>Facilities</i> • <i>Journal of Real Estate Finance and Economics</i> 	

- *Habitat International*
- *Housing Studies*
- *Real Estate Economics*
- *Urban Studies*

Wooldridge, Jeffrey. 2009. *Introductory Econometrics: A modern approach*. 4th ed. South-Western Cengage Learning.