

## Subject Description Form

<b>Subject Code</b>	APSS630														
<b>Subject Title</b>	Quantitative Research Methods in Social Work Research														
<b>Credit Value</b>	2														
<b>Level</b>	6														
<b>Pre-requisite / Co-requisite/ Exclusion</b>	Nil														
<b>Assessment Methods</b>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 40%;">100% Continuous Assessment</th> <th style="width: 30%;">Individual Assessment</th> <th style="width: 30%;">Group Assessment</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. One research paper critique (presentation)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">20%</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. One research paper critique (written)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">30%</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. One Workbook</td> <td style="text-align: center;">50%</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			100% Continuous Assessment	Individual Assessment	Group Assessment	1. One research paper critique (presentation)	20%	0%	2. One research paper critique (written)	30%	0%	3. One Workbook	50%	0%
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The grade is calculated according to the percentage assigned;</li> <li>▪ The completion and submission of all component assignments are required for passing the subject; and</li> <li>▪ Student must pass all components (standard of passing) if he/she is to pass the subject.</li> </ul>															
<b>Objectives</b>															
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Understand the application issues of major quantitative methods that are commonly used in social work research.</li> <li>2. Be familiar with the proper ways of using quantitative methods to answer research questions.</li> <li>3. Be able to understand and evaluate research reports and studies that cover commonly used quantitative research methods and statistical analyses in social work research.</li> </ol>															

<b>Intended Learning Outcomes</b>	<p>Upon completion of the subject, students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Understand the application issues of major quantitative and statistical methods that are commonly used in social work research.</li> <li>b. Be familiar with proper ways of using statistical methods to answer research questions.</li> <li>c. Be able to understand and evaluate research reports and studies that cover commonly used quantitative research methods and statistical analyses.</li> </ol>
<b>Subject Synopsis/ Indicative Syllabus</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fundamentals of quantitative research methodology in social work research, for example, the pros and cons of the observational research, experimental research designs and secondary data analysis in addressing different social work issues.</li> <li>2. Application and design issues in quantitative research methodology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Major issues related to using the three main quantitative research methods - sample size issue, random sampling, response rate &amp; non-response biases, missing data, construction of a questionnaire;</li> <li>• Developing measuring instruments – operationalisation issues related to validity and reliability;</li> <li>• Issues related to applying different statistical methods to analyse data.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Using statistical analyses to address research questions and build up arguments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The use of inferential statistics in social work research</li> <li>• Using observables to represent unobservables - factor analysis, latent variable models;</li> <li>• Using statistics to classify cases – discriminant analysis, cluster analysis</li> <li>• Principles of statistical model building &amp; statistical control;</li> <li>• Some commonly used statistical modelling methods.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
<b>Teaching/Learning Methodology</b>	<p>The course will emphasize the application of quantitative research designs and statistical analysis in relation to social work. Examples will be drawn from local and international studies. Classroom lecturing will be supplemented by workshops and hand-on computer practices using local and international survey data. Local and international examples in social work related research will be used to illustrate the principle, design and application issues of quantitative research methodologies.</p>

<b>Assessment Methods in Alignment with Intended Learning Outcomes</b>	Specific assessment methods/tasks	% weighting	Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed		
			a	b	c
	1. One research paper critique (presentation)	20%	✓	✓	✓
	2. One research paper critique (written)	30%	✓	✓	✓
	3. One workbook	50%		✓	
Total	100%				
<p>Explanation of the appropriateness of the assessment methods in assessing the intended learning outcomes:</p> <p>The term paper will assess outcome (a) &amp; (c); the workbook outcome (b).</p>					
<b>Student Study Effort Expected</b>	<b>Class contact:</b>				
	▪ Lecture		14 Hrs.		
	▪ Seminar		12 Hrs.		
	<b>Other student study effort:</b>				
	▪ Writing		20 Hrs.		
	▪ Reading		20 Hrs.		
	▪ Library and related research		20 Hrs.		
	Total student study effort		86 Hrs.		
<b>Medium of Instruction</b>	English				
<b>Medium of Assessment</b>	English				

## Reading List and References

### Essential

Kaplan, D. (2004). *The SAGE Handbook of Quantitative Methodology for the Social Sciences*. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications. doi: 10.4135/9781412986311

<http://sk.sagepub.com.ezproxy.lb.polyu.edu.hk/reference/the-sage-handbook-of-quantitative-methodology-for-the-social-sciences>

Martin, W. E., & Bridgmon, K. D. (2012). *Research Methods for the Social Sciences Series: Quantitative and Statistical Research Methods : From Hypothesis to Results* (1). San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.

<http://site.ebrary.com.ezproxy.lb.polyu.edu.hk/lib/polyu/detail.action?docID=10580219>

Gordon, R. A. (2012). *Applied Statistics for the Social and Health Sciences*. New York, NY: Routledge.

<http://site.ebrary.com.ezproxy.lb.polyu.edu.hk/lib/polyu/detail.action?docID=10589002&p00=statistics+social+sciences>

### Supplementary

Faherty, V. E. (2008). *Compassionate statistics: Applied quantitative analysis for social services, with exercises and instructions in SPSS*. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications. doi: 10.4135/9781483329543

<http://sk.sagepub.com.ezproxy.lb.polyu.edu.hk/books/compassionate-statistics>

Lynch, S. M. (2013). *Using statistics in social research: A concise approach*. New York, NY: Springer.

<http://link.springer.com.ezproxy.lb.polyu.edu.hk/book/10.1007%2F978-1-4614-8573-5>

Morgan, G. A., Leech, N. L., & Gloeckner, G. W. (2012). *IBM SPSS for introductory statistics: Use and interpretation* (5<sup>th</sup> ed.). New York, NY: Routledge.

<http://site.ebrary.com.ezproxy.lb.polyu.edu.hk/lib/polyu/detail.action?docID=10872846>

Morgan, S., Reichert, T., & Harrison, T. R. (2015). *From numbers to words: Reporting statistical results for the social sciences*. New York, NY: Routledge.

<http://site.ebrary.com.ezproxy.lb.polyu.edu.hk/lib/polyu/detail.action?docID=11238583>

Ruane, J. M. (2015). *Introducing social research methods: Essentials for getting the edge* (1). Chicester, England: Wiley-Blackwell.  
<http://site.ebrary.com.ezproxy.lb.polyu.edu.hk/lib/polyu/detail.action?docID=11128377>

Shaw, I., Briar-Lawson, K., & Orme, J. (2010). *The SAGE handbook of social work research*. London: SAGE Publications. doi: 10.4135/9780857021106  
[http://sk.sagepub.com.ezproxy.lb.polyu.edu.hk/reference/hdbk\\_socialworkrsch](http://sk.sagepub.com.ezproxy.lb.polyu.edu.hk/reference/hdbk_socialworkrsch)

Sheppard, M. (2004). *Appraising and Using Social Research in the Human Services : An Introduction for Social Work and Health Professionals*. London: Jessica Kingsley Publishers.  
<http://web.a.ebscohost.com.ezproxy.lb.polyu.edu.hk/ehost/detail/detail?sid=caa62165-b9d1-4448-8245-1e28de0ae6cc%40sessionmgr4008&vid=0&hid=4104&bdata=JnNpdGU9ZWhvc3QtbGl2ZQ%3d%3d#AN=129937&db=nlebk>

Weakliem, D. L. (2016). *Hypothesis Testing and Model Selection in the Social Sciences*. New York, NY: The Guilford Press.  
<http://site.ebrary.com.ezproxy.lb.polyu.edu.hk/lib/polyu/detail.action?docID=11171238>