

PIA6604: MAPPM CAPSTONE PROJECT

Effective Term

Semester B 2024/25

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

MAPPM Capstone Project

Subject Code

PIA - Public and International Affairs

Course Number

6604

Academic Unit

Public and International Affairs (PIA)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

Two Semesters

Credit Units

0-3

Level

P5, P6 - Postgraduate Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

PIA6903 MAPPM Dissertation

Additional Information

Course Duration: Two Semesters (Semester A and B for part-time students; Semester B and Summer for full-time students)

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course aims to enable students in integrating and applying the theories, technologies and practices they acquired in various courses in the programme in generating new ideas, constructing innovative practices or devising alternate perspective in chosen subject issues in public management and policy. Doing so, they will further practice analysis, sharpen their critical thinking and problem solving skills, and learn to make evidence-informed decisions in a complex and dynamic environment. Students will work in groups of 3-5 students to work on a topic of their choice (the exact number of students per group will be decided by the course leader upon knowing the actual enrolment for this course).

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Identify issues in public management and policy that are inadequately understood or being poorly handled		x		
2	Critically analyse and evaluate the knowledge gap relating to the public management and policy issues that are identified		x	x	
3	Design and implement plans to collect relevant information		x	x	
4	Discover new knowledge or construct new practice in relation to the identified issues in public management and policy		x	x	
5	Communicate effectively the new knowledge related to the identified public management and policy issues				x
6	Work effectively in a team		x	x	

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs		Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Readings and meetings	Private reading of individual students and meetings of the project group	1, 2, 3, 4, 6	Up to 6 hours per week
2	Meetings with supervisor	Regular meetings between the project group and the supervisor	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	2 hours per week

3	Interim report	Interim report of the project group	3	End of the first semester/summer term
4	Presentation	Presentation of research proposal	2, 5	End of the first semester/summer term
5	Final Report	Final report, which contains literature review, data, methods, and findings.	2, 4, 6	End of the course

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs		CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks (e.g. Parameter for GenAI use)
1	Project proposal and presentation	1, 2, 3, 5	10	
2	Final report (7,500-9500 words)	1, 2, 4, 5	70	
3	Peer review	6	20	Also used to identify free riders
4	Reflective Journal (500-800 Words)	4, 5, 6		

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

Project proposal and presentation (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Quality of the proposal and presentation

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Knowledge and skills required to undertake an original discovery research project is excellently demonstrated and applied.

Good

(B+, B, B-) Knowledge and skills required to undertake an original discovery research project is well demonstrated and applied.

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Knowledge and skills required to undertake an original discovery research project is rudimentarily demonstrated and applied.

Marginal

(D) Knowledge and skills required to undertake an original discovery research project is limited.

Failure

(F) Unable to demonstrate and apply knowledge and skills required to undertake an original discovery research project.

Assessment Task

Final report (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Content of the final report

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Very high quality of critical thinking, review of literature, analysis and evaluation, written communication, and creative findings.

Good

(B+, B, B-) Good quality of critical thinking, review of literature, analysis and evaluation, written communication, and creative findings.

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Fair quality of critical thinking, review of literature, analysis and evaluation, written communication, and creative findings

Marginal

(D) Superficial critical thinking and limited effort in the review of literature, analysis and evaluation and poor written communication, and limited creative findings.

Failure

(F) No critical thinking and little effort in the review of literature, analysis and evaluation and very poor written communication, and very limited creative findings.

Assessment Task

Peer Review (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Evaluation by peers

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Outstanding evaluation results

Good

(B+, B, B-) Good evaluation results

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Fair evaluation results

Marginal

(D) Marginal evaluation results

Failure

(F) Poor evaluation results

Assessment Task

Reflective Journal (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Quality of the journal

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Demonstrate ability to integrate theory and practice.

Good

(B+, B, B-) Some Indication ability to integrate theory and practice.

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Limited ability to integrate theory and practice.

Marginal

(D) Minimal ability to integrate theory and practice.

Failure

(F) No demonstration of the ability to integrate theory and practice.

Assessment Task

Project proposal and presentation (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Quality of the proposal and presentation

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Knowledge and skills required to undertake an original discovery research project is excellently demonstrated and applied.

Good

(B+, B) Knowledge and skills required to undertake an original discovery research project is well demonstrated and applied.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Knowledge and skills required to undertake an original discovery research project is rudimentarily demonstrated and applied.

Failure

(F) Unable to demonstrate and apply knowledge and skills required to undertake an original discovery research project.

Assessment Task

Final report (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Content of the final report

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Very high quality of critical thinking, review of literature, analysis and evaluation, written communication, and creative findings.

Good

(B+, B) Good quality of critical thinking, review of literature, analysis and evaluation, written communication, and creative findings.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Fair quality of critical thinking, review of literature, analysis and evaluation, written communication, and creative findings

Failure

(F) No critical thinking and little effort in the review of literature, analysis and evaluation and very poor written communication, and very limited creative findings.

Assessment Task

Peer Review (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Evaluation by peers

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Outstanding evaluation results

Good

(B+, B) Good evaluation results

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Fair evaluation results

Failure

(F) Poor evaluation results

Assessment Task

Reflective Journal (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Quality of the journal

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Demonstrate ability to integrate theory and practice.

Good

(B+, B) Some Indication ability to integrate theory and practice.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Limited ability to integrate theory and practice.

Failure

(F) No demonstration of the ability to integrate theory and practice.

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Research planning (problem identification, research statement, research objectives), literature review, conceptual framework, research methodologies (data collection strategies, quantitative research methods, qualitative research methods), data analysis (descriptive statistics, two variables analysis, qualitative data analysis, model building), research presentation (verbal and oral presentation, research findings presentation, graphing data), research conclusion, policy implications, appraising research.

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	King, G., Keohane, R. O., & Verba, S. (1994). Designing social inquiry: Scientific inference in qualitative research. Princeton university press.
2	Van Thiel, S. (2014). Research methods in public administration and public management: An introduction. Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge.
3	Gray, David E. (2009). Doing research in the real world 2nd edition, Los Angeles ; London: SAGE.
4	Nigel Gilbert (2009). Researching Social Life Third Edition, London: Sage.
5	Ridley, Diana (2012). The literature review : a step-by-step guide for students London : SAGE.
6	Verhoeven, Pieterella Susanna (2011) Doing research : the hows and whys of applied research 3rd ed., The Hague : Eleven International Publishing ; Chicago, IL, USA

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Nil