The University of Hong Kong
Department of Psychology
An Overview of Research Project in Cognitive Science (PSYC4068)

Course Synopsis/Description

(For cognitive science major) This course comprises an independent research study in an area of cognitive science of the candidates' choice, subject to availability of supervision. Students will conduct a research project or read within an area of study, to be agreed with their instructor, and write an extended essay or research project report. The essay or project write-up should be about 4,000 to 5,000 words (exclusive of tables, bibliographies and appendices) and should follow the practice of communication in cognitive science journals.
Assessment: 100% coursework.
Prerequisite: PSYC2066.

Course Objectives

- Have students engage in individual exploration and learning within an area of Cognitive Science
- Require students to meet regularly and frequently with an instructor to discuss readings or project progress
- Students will write an extended report, such as a long essay or a research project report

Learning Outcomes

- Ability to read and explore within an area of Cognitive Science
- Ability to write an extended piece of work that addresses an issue in Cognitive Science in some depth

Lecture Topics

The course will involve individual instruction of the student by an instructor. Student and instructor will have regular meetings to discuss readings.

Recommended Reading List

Readings will be determined by the instructor.

The Research Report

The research study can be from any area of cognitive science including linguistics, philosophy, computer science, as well as psychology. You may approach teaching staff in the Departments of Linguistics, Philosophy, Computer Science and Psychology (in the area of cognitive psychology) for research supervision. You have to submit a Working Title Confirmation form before the end of add/drop period of each semester. The Program Coordinator or of Cognitive Science Major should sign off if the choice of supervisor and topic is appropriate.

Data Collection and Research Ethics Application

A supervisor might suggest student to collect some data. If you are required to do so and your research area is in Psychology, you have to submit a research ethics application to the General Office of the Department of Psychology **within 1 month after the add/drop period**. Late submission will be penalized. Failure to submit

an ethics application will lead to a failure in the course. For more details, please read carefully the "Overview of Research Ethics Application for UG programmes".

Submission of Research Report

1. Please submit your report to Moodle before the deadline.
   a) Please submit in one single file in PDF format including all the chapters.
   b) All covering pages, pictures, tables and charts must be included in appropriate position of the file.
   c) There is no need to submit SPSS, Excel or other files separately.

2. The deadline of submission is 23:59 on the last day of teaching in each semester.

3. The penalty for late submission is one mark for each calendar day, including Saturday, Sunday and public holidays.

4. Requests for deadline extension will not be permitted, except for medical reasons. Prior approval must be sought from the Department with supporting documents issued by a health professional and supervisor's consent.

5. The softcopy will be checked for plagiarism against a database of articles, books, webpages, and essays submitted by students at HKU and other universities. No credit will be given if the work contains plagiarized materials. Further penalties will also be applied, including a zero mark for the course. Plagiarism will also be reported to your Faculty for consideration of possible disciplinary action. Please be sure to read the website to know more about how to avoid plagiarism: https://tl.hku.hk/plagiarism/how-to-avoid-plagiarism/

6. All raw data and research materials must be retained. The department may invite you for an oral examination in addition to the submission of research projects.

Department of Psychology
Research Project in Cognitive Science (PSYC4068)
Working Title Confirmation Form
2026 – 2027 Academic Year

Please complete this form and return to the Department by email to ugpsyc@hku.hk on or before **4:00pm, Sep 15, 2026 (Semester 1)** or **4:00pm, Feb 1, 2027 (Semester 2).**

Name of Student: _____

University No.: _____ Degree: _____

Mobile Phone No.: _____

HKU Email: _____

Project Working Title: _____

_____

_____

Name of Supervisor: _____

Department of Supervisor: _____

Is the research study required to collect data? ☐Yes / ☐ No (Tick as appropriate)

_____ _____
Signature of Student Signature of Supervisor

_____ _____
Date Date

Course approval status will be notified through the SIS course selection status.