

ARCH 6057
Spring 2026
2 hours, Thursdays, 10 am – 12 pm

Aims/Objectives

This course is designed for students embarking on independent, PhD-level research scholarship in fields comprising the design, history, and theory of architecture, landscape, and the built environment. Collectively, these fields compose rich conceptual territory for new areas of scholarly inquiry. This course will introduce and train students in pre-dissertation and pre-thesis research strategies and methods, with particular attention paid to understanding the nature of scholarly research, qualitative and quantitative research methods, identifying key research issues and formulating research questions, collecting and understanding evidence, conducting analysis, and the production of high-quality academic scholarship.

Considerable attention is given to understanding the process of writing, presenting, and illustrating new knowledge in the various disciplines and fields of knowledge that comprise architecture.

This introductory course is required of all entering Ph.D. and M.Phil. students in the Department of Architecture.

Teaching and Learning Activities

This course consists of one 2-hour seminar. Prior to class, students will be expected to complete all of the week's readings and be prepared to discuss them critically and constructively. Students should bring hard copies of the texts to class and be prepared to share their thoughts about the texts' structure, key points, passages, and arguments, interrelations, and relevance to other prior course readings. RPg students are part of a larger intellectual community and should be aware that their active participation in in-class discussions and critical reflection on and assessment of the course material as well as outside the class in studio reviews, public events, etc., is important.

The seminar will be led by one instructor, enrolled students, and invited faculty advisers.

Enrolment

There are no prerequisites for this module. Students are expected to have some preliminary ideas concerning their dissertation topic and research.

Learning Outcomes

On the completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Explain their research interests, the preliminary subject of their dissertation, and the underlying methods to be deployed, i.e. qualitative/quantitative research methods;
- Identify key sources in their respective fields, and articulate the relationship between their preliminary topic and the state of the field;
- Understand the advantages and disadvantages of a particular research method and any ethical issues related to those methods, including the use of GenAI
- Initiate and present a conference paper on their chosen topic while offering constructive feedback on the work of peers.

Statement of Academic Content

Plagiarism is defined as the practice of taking someone else's work or ideas without acknowledgement and framing them as your own. Appropriately acknowledging and citing your sources is critical. Plagiarism is an academic misdemeanor, and may be considered grounds for failure from this course as well as for further disciplinary action from the University.

All written work in this course shall be submitted for plagiarism review via Turnitin at <http://turnitin.com>. Clarification of the University of Hong Kong's policies on plagiarism, as well as detailed descriptions on how to properly cite and source material in your written work and assignments are available at <http://www.hku.hk/plagiarism>.