<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject Code</th>
<th>BRE377</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Hours</td>
<td>L 16.5/T 7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Effort Hours</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment Method</td>
<td>Coursework 100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit Value</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pre-requisites</td>
<td>Level 2 core subjects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-requisites</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exclusions</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject Leader/ Lecturer/Dept</td>
<td>BRE Scheme</td>
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### RESEARCH METHODS

**Subject Aim:**
To prepare students for undertaking a manageable piece of research leading to a dissertation.

**Learning Outcomes:**

Students will demonstrate their ability to:-

1. Describe and appraise the key concepts, elements and requirements in research.
2. Describe the meaning of plagiarism and demonstrate the proper ways to avoid it.
3. Apply the knowledge of fundamental statistics in collecting, organizing, summarizing, presenting and analyzing data, as well as drawing valid conclusions.
4. Conduct hypothesis testing and valid multiple regression analysis with its diagnostic tests.
5. Produce a dissertation research proposal with researchable topic related to the fields of construction and real estate.

**Brief Syllabus Content:**

A. Concepts: Philosophy of sciences, theory, hypothesis, methodology, method, research objective, problem statement, classification of research, etc.
B. Process: Literature search and review, referencing and plagiarism, work plan, authorship skills, data assembly, time management, writing up, etc.
C. Qualitative research: Strategy, approaches, methods, analysis, examples, limitations, etc.
D. Quantitative research methods: Descriptive and inferential statistics, normal distribution, basic quantitative techniques, hypothesis testing and decision making, correlation and regression analysis, and application of computer softwares/programs to handle statistical problems and calculations, etc. *(Remarks: Students are expected to learn these statistical techniques in more details and many other relevant quantitative techniques by their own initiatives.)*
E. Writing out a dissertation proposal.

**Assessment Strategy (assessment of student performance resulting from learning tasks):**

The coursework mark will be based on short tests, problem-based assignments, seminar and discussion. The approach to coursework assessment is guided by two principles. First, the need to assess the extent to which the students have achieved the learning outcomes with respect to grading criteria. Second, the assessment itself should contribute in some way towards reflection and learning of the importance of research methods in Dissertation.

The course “Research Methods” is a major component leading to the learning and completion of Dissertation. Students must complete and pass all the components of the subject. Half of the total coursework mark will be devoted to qualitative research methods, and the other half quantitative research methods. Qualitative and quantitative research methods are complementary and supplementary to each other. They are not complete in themselves. Students need to demonstrate their learning outcomes, at pass levels, on both of them to complete the course.
Reference List:

Essential:

Recommended:
Lucey T. (1992) Quantitative Techniques ELBS.