Course Title/Code: Measurement in Health (MMPH6208)

Department: School of Public Health

Objective: The course objectives are:

1. To describe and critically evaluate alternative approaches to measuring selected aspects of health

2. To critically evaluate instruments in common domains of health measurement such as disability, mental health, pain and quality of life

3. To define terms and basic concepts in measurement theory (including validity, econometrics, item analysis, scaling, item response theory)

4. To illustrate how the purpose of a measurement (descriptive, evaluative, diagnostic, prognostic) affects its design

5. To describe the procedures for designing, developing and testing a new measurement scale, including examination of validity, reliability and responsiveness to change

Content: Topics include:

• Introduction to Health Measurement

• Validity and validation

 Reliability Theory and Assessing Reliability; Item-Response Theory

Designing Questions and Response Scales

• The accuracy of subjective responses, alternative measurement approaches and measures of population health

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Compare and contrast alternative approaches to measuring selected aspects of health

2. Critically evaluate health measurement instruments

3. Recall the terms and describe the basic concepts in measurement theory

4. Illustrate how the purpose of a measurement affects its design

5. Explain the procedures for designing, developing and testing a new measurement scale

 Critically evaluate a proposal for testing the validity and reliability of a measurement instrument as used in an epidemiological study

Prerequisite: None

Duration: 3 hours/week; 30 contact hours

Continuous assessment/ examination ratio:

70%/30%

Examination method/duration:

Written examination / 2 hours

Remarks: Also offered to RPg from other Faculties at HKU.