

## LANG5071 Postgraduate English for Humanities

### 1. Course Information

**1.1 Course description:** This one-credit course teaches common skills postgraduate humanities students need to write and speak about their research. The course is compulsory for all RPG students of HUMA (for students admitted in 2012/13 and onwards). Students who fail to fulfill the English language requirement of the University are advised to take LANG 5000 before enrolling for this course (for students admitted in 2009/10 and onwards). Graded P or F.

**1.2 Students mostly:**

- study for a humanities PhD or are beginning their PhD study at MPhil level
- take the course in their first year but can take it any time before graduation
- originate from Hong Kong, Mainland China and overseas

**1.3 Offering pattern:** The course runs an equal numbers of sections in the spring semester through a weekly 3-hour class

### 2. Corequisites

Students admitted with any IELTS band below 6 (or equivalent) must also pass LANG5000 before graduation.

### 3. Exemptions

The course leader may exempt students who meet all or most of the exemption requirements.

### 4. Course Aims: ILOs from PG catalog:

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

1. Understand academic, stylistic and rhetorical conventions of spoken and written research in the humanities.
2. Understand the importance of critique, argument and contribution in spoken and written research in the humanities.
3. Develop an engaging and appropriate style of academic writing and speaking suitable for potential audiences.
4. Communicate their own research persuasively to academic and non-specialist audiences by applying this learning.

## 5. Course Assessment

	Task	Purposes (include ILOs 1-4)
1	Students write an <b>abstract</b> related to their research topic and that could be presented at an academic conference (max. 350 words).	This assessment may help students: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Understand the purpose of an abstract</li><li>• Know the structure of an abstract</li><li>• Understand the steps in writing an abstract</li><li>• Know how to identify the key components of an abstract</li></ul>
2	Students write a critical <b>literature review</b> of a topic in their field or a general review that includes some critique (max. 1500-2000 words).	This assignment may help students when they come to write a critical review needed in, for example, a journal article, their dissertation, or an annual summary of their graduate work
3	Students give a <b>presentation</b> of the subject of their critical literature review or of a related topic (eg their research topic). The audience may give comments and ask questions (around 15 minutes plus questions and comments).	This assessment requires students to explain their work comprehensibly to a mixed humanities-disciplines audience. The purpose aligns with an increasing need for researchers to present their work to wider audiences at conferences, for funding applications, to internet audiences, etc.

## 6. Course Content

Course content covers these main areas but excludes some in the Zoom-taught course:

- Speaking and writing requirements for research degree students and beyond
- Critical reading in research reading and writing
- Structures, patterns and rhetoric in research writing and speaking
- Thematic organizations in research speaking and writing
- The roles of argument and storytelling in research writing and speaking
- Using citations effectively to make arguments and tell stories
- Good and bad principles and features in research writing and speaking
- Analyzing and writing research abstracts
- Analyzing and writing literature reviews
- Analyzing and delivering research presentations