

LANG 5080 English Seminar and Presentation Skills

1.Course Information. LANG 5080 is a three-credit one semester course offered to research postgraduate (MPhil and PhD) students in Environmental Science, Policy and Management. Students attend three hours of classes per week (two 1.5-hour classes). The course is offered in the Fall semester.

2. Pre-requisites and co-requisites. There are no pre-requisites or co-requisites but students who fail to fulfill the spoken English language requirements of the University are advised to take LANG 5000 before enrolling for this course. LANG 5080 can be taken in any year of study, but students are advised to take it early on in their course of study.

3. Aims of the course. The course aims to enhance the spoken English of research postgraduate students in Environmental Science, Policy and Management. The course focuses on developing appropriate English skills for participation in academic seminars, giving effective presentations of the students' own research and to develop the ability to communicate highly specialized content to a wider, often non-academic audience.

After completing the course students will be able to:

- Engage confidently and fluently in seminar discussions on a range of topics related to Environmental Science, Policy and Management
- Explain and defend their own positions on a range of issues related to their subject
- Ask appropriate questions in seminar discussions
- Use a wide range of subject-related vocabulary in oral interaction
- Deliver effective presentations based on their own research topics
- Demonstrate skills in referring to empirical data in oral presentations
- Make appropriate use of supporting visual material in oral presentations

Intended Learning Outcomes

1. Context and purpose of communication	<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Demonstrate an awareness of environmental issues.b. Articulate knowledge of the various environmental positions and assess each perspective.
2. Presentation & Communication skills	<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Develop an awareness of audiences and their specific needsb. Identify characteristics of effective presentations, and develop necessary communication skills of articulation, pace, and voice projection.c. Exemplify professional organizational skills to illustrate and explain ideas.

3. Leadership and Teamwork	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Collaborate with peers to research group projects and present collective findings. b. Lead peers to adopt and implement solutions to environmentally based problems.
4. International Outlook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Respond effectively to various cultural and national perspectives which influence the implementation of environmental solutions.
5. Ethical standards & Compassion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Recognize various cultural and individual values when assessing environmental solutions to problems. b. Illustrate understanding of individual and societal concerns surrounding environmental action.

4. Course assessment:

Assessment	Weighting	ILOs
Seminar (conducted in pairs)	35%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2. a, b, c 3. a, b 4. 5. a, b
Three-minute thesis	35%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a, b 2. a, b, c 3. a, b
Feedback to peers in class	30%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4. 5. a, b

5. Course content:

- Presentation skills
- Verbal and non-verbal communication
- Strategies for persuasion
- Seminar Discussion and facilitation skills
- Impromptu speaking
- Dealing with Q&A
- Developing effective visuals