

LANG 5081 Research Writing Skills for postgraduates in Environmental Science, Public Policy and Management, and InnoX

1.Course Information LANG 4032 is a three-credit, one semester core course offered to postgraduates in Environmental Science, Public Policy and Management, and InnoX. Students attend three hours of class and complete up to six hours of out-of-class work, per week. The course is offered in Spring semester.

The course aims at helping students to meet the specific demands of their academic work, tackling serious environmental problems by an interdisciplinary approach, as such problems are complicated in nature and caused by multifarious factors. For most of the students, who have either a science or an engineering background, they have to ensure that they can write effectively to communicate their ideas with researchers coming from a diverse background, including those experts from the disciplines of Business and Management, and Social Sciences.

The course therefore focuses on developing students' abilities in writing a wide spectrum of research genres, including:

Research writing skills for proposals

Students will develop effective argumentation techniques and organizational strategies in using appropriate language to craft different sections of their research proposals.

Research writing skills for abstracts

Students will learn how audience and purpose influence the content, organization and language style of abstracts, and how to write abstract strategically with the aim of being accepted by conferences in their special fields.

2. Aims of the course: Intended Learning Outcomes

1.Knowledge and Content Related	<p>Students can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) identify and address the needs and concerns of a variety of academic audiences in writingb) identify the overall structure of a thesis/research paper/proposal/abstractc) recognize the functions and conventions of different sections of a thesis/research paper/proposal/abstractd) critically analyze and discuss major issues and recent developments in your major area of study
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	e) support ideas with appropriate evidence, and properly acknowledge sources
2. Academic Skills and Competencies	<p>Students can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) make use of appropriate organizational structures, tones and formats in writing for different audiences and purposes b) include citations and quotations seamlessly in research proposals, and effectively synthesize different viewpoints to form a coherent argument c) use accurate, fluent and persuasive language (vocabulary, structures and hedging) to write research proposals based on quantitative data, in describing experimental designs, and in formulating research questions and hypotheses, and engage readers right from the start d) use language effectively to write succinct and persuasive abstracts according to their specific purposes, particularly for acceptance by conferences
3. Ethical Standards	Students can demonstrate academic integrity in course assignments.
4. Vision and Orientation to the Future	Students can recognize the need to communicate courteously and appropriately in professional contexts.

3. Course assessment

Assessment	Weighting	ILOs
Research Proposal (individual assessment): Draft + Final Revision based on conferencing	50%	1. a, b, c, d, e 2. a, b, c, d 3. 4.
Conference Abstract (individual assessment): Draft + Final Revision based on conferencing	50%	1. a, b, c, d, e 2. a, b, c, d 3. 4.

4.Course Content

- What is a research proposal
- Writing the objectives of your research
- Setting the hypotheses
- Crafting the significance statement
- Describing methods
- What is an abstract
- Summarizing, paraphrasing and referencing
- Writing the introduction
- Conducting a literature review
- Audience analysis
- Argumentation and persuasion