

LANG4033 Technical Communication II for Civil and Environmental Engineering

1. Course Description

LANG 4033 is a three-credit course offered to students from Civil Engineering (CIVL) taking a CIVL Final Year Project (FYP). Over one semester, students will attend three hours of class, and will be expected to complete up to six hours of out-of-class work, per week. The course focuses on two areas:

Communication in Professional Contexts

Students will investigate a topical issue and propose an innovative solution in CIVL contextualized in a recent development initiative or project. Students will identify and analyze an issue and opportunities, explain the proposed technology, and evaluate the impacts and potentials of the solution to the development / initiative in a group presentation and an individual technical report. Students will read, analyze, and discuss materials on CIVL-related topics from a variety of genres. They will also analyze the audience and communicative purpose of different types of written texts. A self-evaluation will be conducted to reinforce students' learning in professional genres.

Communication for Academic Purposes

Students will familiarize themselves with writing research articles by developing effective organizational skills and exploring appropriate language use in their FYP preparation. The course materials will focus on introducing the research project and objectives, reviewing relevant literature to identify significant research trends and needs, and describing and evaluating progress. Students will read and discuss materials on CIVL-related topics from academic journal articles. They will work through a range of tasks that prepare them for the individual FYP report and presentation.

2. Core Areas for Learning (CAfLs) and LANG 4033 Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

HKUST Competency	CLE CAfLs and LANG 4033 ILOs
Problem-solving (PS03)	Synthesis <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. You can critically analyze and discuss major issues and recent developments in your major and related professions2. You can select, summarize and synthesize information from texts in your major subject3. You can support claims with appropriate evidence, and properly acknowledge sources4. You can demonstrate academic integrity in course assignments

Communication (CM01-4)	Substance 5. You can speak and write clearly and fully, using relevant information, ideas and arguments
	Coherence 6. You can write and speaking coherently using appropriate organizational structures and formatting for engineering-related communication tasks 7. You can recognize and use appropriate organizational structure, tone and formatting in written and spoken communication for different audiences and purposes
	Language accuracy (written and spoken) 8. You can use accurate and fluent language (pronunciation, intonation, vocabulary, linguistic structures and style) relevant to engineering-related communication tasks
	Interaction 9. You can identify and address the needs and concerns of a variety of academic and professional audiences in speaking and writing 10. You can recognize the need to communicate courteously and appropriately in professional contexts
	Mode of communication 11. You can use appropriate body language in engineering-related presentations 12. You can use a variety of modes of communication effectively
Personal Development (SR02)	Being an effective learner 13. You can identify strengths and weaknesses in your work and the work of others 14. You can give constructive feedback to improve the performance of others in engineering-related communication tasks

3. Assessments

Part 1: Professional Communication	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasibility Report (individual) Relevant ILOs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 	25%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A presentation on a project (group and individual) Relevant ILOs: 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 	20%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-evaluation of project presentation (individual) Relevant ILOs: 13, 14 	5%

Part 2: Academic Communication	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The introduction and literature review of the Final Year Project report (individual) Relevant ILOs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9	25%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A presentation on the progress of the Final Year Project (individual) Relevant ILOs: 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11	25%

4. Course Content

Part 1: Professional Communication

- Report writing: constructing the context
- Report writing: analysing causes
- Report writing: discussing options
- Report writing: assessing impacts
- Report writing: making recommendations
- Presenting information to different audiences
- Presentation skills: group presentations
- Communicating with government departments
- Meetings: speaking at a public meeting
- Meetings: meeting with a client

Part2: Academic Communication

- Writing the Final Year Project introduction
- Reviewing the literature
- Describing methods
- Describing results
- Completing the Final Year Project report
- Designing and using visual aids
- Presentation skills