Academic Writing in Context – Global China Studies
LANG4070
1 credit
Pre-requisites: N/A
Co-requisites: SHSS4991 Capstone Project (3 credits) or SHSS4992 Honors Thesis (6 credits)

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Office Hours of Course Coordinator: Available by appointment only. Students should contact their section instructor directly with any questions.

Course Description

LANG4070 is one-credit course offered by the Centre for Language Education (CLE) for final year students on the Global China Studies degree programme who are in the process of producing their capstone project research or in the final stage of completing their honors thesis.

Course objectives: to develop your ability to communicate concisely using a range of language features.

Course content: Through this course you refine previously developed transferable skills to complete your written work in an autonomous manner. You will achieve this through working with your instructor in individual consultations and discussing aspects of the written work you have produced for your capstone project or honour thesis.

Methods of instruction: interactive individual tutorials with your instructor support you to provide clarity and depth when writing your capstone project or honors thesis.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

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

1. Demonstrate a good command of English for academic purposes within their discipline. For instance, adopting an appropriate discipline register, writing with concision and clarity, and using a range of simple and complex language, including lexis.
2. Apply a critical approach to the process of a research project. For example, critically engaging with sources, identifying areas for further research, and including analysis and evaluation in your writing and drawing on implications.
3. Present research in an organised and systematic manner. For instance, developing a logical argument which is presented coherently through the use of sections, well-formed paragraphs, and visualisation of data.

Assessment and Grading
This course will be assessed using criterion-referencing and grades will not be assigned using a curve.

Assessments:

Assessment Task	Contribution to Overall Course grade (%)	Due date
Excerpt 1	50%	Approx. week 8*
Excerpt 2	50%	Approx. week 13*

* Specific due dates are posted on Canvas. Assessment marks for individual assessed tasks will be released within two weeks of the due date.

Mapping of Course ILOs to Assessment Tasks

Assessed Task	Mapped ILOs	Explanation
Excerpt 1	ILO1, ILO2, ILO3	This task assesses students' ability to succinctly and concisely communicate (ILO1) relevant aspects of previous research to an educated, non-specialist audience (ILO2) and explain how this research connects to the proposed research study (ILO3).
Excerpt 2	ILO1, ILO2, ILO3	This task assesses students' ability to effectively communicate aspects of their findings (ILO1, ILO3) and draw conclusions from these findings (ILO2).

Grading Rubrics
Detailed rubrics for each assignment are provided on Canvas. These rubrics clearly outline the criteria used for evaluation. Students can refer to these rubrics to understand how their work will be assessed.

Final Grade Descriptors:

Grades	Short Description	Elaboration on subject grading description
A	Excellent Performance	Content: Demonstrates sophisticated synthesis of well-developed ideas from quality sources with skilful coherence. Communication: Uses nuanced language and non-verbal communication with sustained awareness of target audience/reader, context, purpose.
B	Good Performance	Content: Demonstrates synthesis of well-developed ideas from quality sources with effective coherence. Communication: Uses effective language and non-verbal communication with very high awareness of target audience/reader, context, purpose.
C	Satisfactory Performance	Content: Demonstrates synthesis of relevant ideas from quality sources with mostly clear coherence. Communication: Uses appropriate language and non-verbal communication with some awareness of target audience/reader, context, purpose.
D	Marginal Pass	Content: Synthesizes relevant ideas with some analysis, somewhat coherently. Ideas may be superficial, repetitive, missing or inadequate.

		Communication: Use some appropriate language and non-verbal communication with little awareness of target audience/reader, context, purpose. Communication is often inadequate or awkward.
F	Fail	Content: Does not synthesize, develop or organize ideas sufficiently. Ideas are very superficial, repetitive, irrelevant, inadequate, and/or lacking. Communication: limited awareness of audience, context, purpose; limited control of language.

Course AI Policy

We encourage students to make use of all the tools available that can help them to communicate more effectively in English. We also expect students to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity. There is no penalty for using or not using GenAI. However, GenAI and other tools cannot be used as a substitute for a student's own work. Students are expected to write their own assessed assignments and to prepare their presentations themselves.

GenAI tools can be very useful for:

- Brainstorming ideas and suggesting sources BUT the information provided may not be accurate or relevant to your assignment.

- Giving suggestions about improving the organization of your writing BUT GenAI tends to suggest very formulaic patterns of writing which may not fit your requirements.

- Giving suggestions about improving your language BUT GenAI may make suggestions for language changes which are not appropriate for the intended context and audience.

- Suggesting simple ways of expressing complex discipline-specific concepts BUT these explanations may be unfamiliar to your audience.

- Providing summaries of long texts BUT important information may be omitted, particularly if the original text is not well-written.

In short, GenAI provides opportunities to enhance your use of English and contains pitfalls which you need to be aware of.

Communication and Feedback

Assessment marks for individual assessed tasks will be communicated via Canvas within 10 working days of submission. Feedback on assignments will include strengths and areas for improvement where relevant. Students who have further questions about the feedback including marks should consult the instructor within five working days after the feedback is received.

Resubmission Policy

Resubmissions are not accepted, except in exceptional circumstances.

Required Texts and Materials

Course materials and additional resources are provided via Canvas.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to adhere to the university's academic integrity policy. Students are expected to uphold HKUST's Academic Honor Code and to maintain the highest standards of academic

integrity. The University has zero tolerance of academic misconduct. Please refer to <u>Academic Integrity | HKUST – Academic Registry</u> for the University's definition of plagiarism and ways to avoid cheating and plagiarism.

Plagiarism

In CLE assignments, students should not copy from others nor submit the same work for multiple courses. Source materials must be explicitly acknowledged.

Assignments with evidence of plagiarism may score a zero and be followed up with your department's Dean. To demonstrate academic integrity and avoid plagiarism, you are expected to:

• paraphrase, summarize, reference and synthesize ideas from sources

• refrain from copying expressions and ideas directly from any source (e.g. from another student, or from a video, or from an article, etc.) without proper acknowledgement

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend a whole class meeting in the first week of semester. They will then schedule three individual consultations and up to two support consultations with the instructor. Failure to attend a consultation may result in a missed opportunity to get feedback and advice on writing the capstone project or honors thesis.