

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

UG Course Syllabus

LANG4033

Technical Communication II for Civil and Environmental Engineering

3 credits

Course Coordinator: Ka-Ming Yuen (lckaming@ust.hk)

If you have any questions, your first point of contact should be your section instructor. Please find the email address on Canvas.

Course Description

LANG 4033 is a three-credit course offered to students from Civil and Environmental Engineering (CIVL & CIEV) taking a 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 a feasible solution in CIVL & CIEV 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- or CIEV-related topics from a variety of genres. They will also analyze the audience and communicative purpose of different types of written texts.

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- or CIEV-related topics from academic journal articles. They will work through a range of tasks that prepare them for the individual FYP report and presentation.

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 subject

	<p>3. You can support claims with appropriate evidence, and properly acknowledge sources</p> <p>4. You can demonstrate academic integrity in course assignments</p>
Communication (CM01-4)	<p>Substance</p> <p>5. You can speak and write clearly and fully, using relevant information, ideas, and arguments</p>
	<p>Coherence</p> <p>6. You can write and speak coherently using appropriate organizational structures and formatting for engineering-related communication tasks</p> <p>7. You can recognize and use appropriate organizational structure, tone, and formatting in written and spoken communication for different audiences and purposes</p>
	<p>Language accuracy and use (written and spoken)</p> <p>8. You can use accurate and fluent language (pronunciation, intonation, vocabulary, linguistic structures and style) relevant to engineering-related communication tasks</p>
	<p>Interaction</p> <p>9. You can identify and address the needs and concerns of a variety of academic and professional audiences in speaking and writing</p> <p>10. You can recognize the need to communicate courteously and appropriately in professional contexts</p>
	<p>Mode of communication</p> <p>11. You can use appropriate body language in engineering-related presentations</p> <p>12. You can use a variety of modes of communication effectively</p>
Personal Development (SR02)	<p>Being an effective learner</p> <p>13. You can identify strengths and weaknesses in your work and the work of others</p> <p>14. You can give constructive feedback to improve the performance of others in engineering-related communication tasks</p>

Assessments

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

Part 1: Professional Communication		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Technical Report (group and individual) <i>*due Week 7</i>	25%	ILOs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14 (This report requires proper content selection, organization and language use; it is groupwork that facilitates personal development.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A presentation on a project (group and individual) <i>* due Weeks 6 & 7</i>	25%	ILOs: 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 (This oral presentation requires proper content selection, organization, language use and delivery; it is groupwork that facilitates personal development.)
Part 2: Academic Communication		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The introduction and literature review of the Final Year Project report (individual) <i>* due Week 13</i>	25%	ILOs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 (This writing task requires proper content selection, organization and language use.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A presentation on the progress of the Final Year Project (individual) <i>* due Weeks 12 & 13</i>	25%	ILOs: 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11 (This oral presentation requires proper content selection, organization, language use and delivery.)

** specific due dates are posted on Canvas*

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
A	Excellent	Well-selected content is presented clearly with sophisticated development for the context. Language use and delivery are completely appropriate.
B	Good	Suitable content is presented in a sensible way with proper development for the context.

		Language use and delivery are mostly appropriate.
C	Satisfactory	Adequate content is presented with fair development for the context, while some parts may lack clarity or coherence. Language use and delivery may be sometimes awkward but understandable in general.
D	Marginal Pass	Some assignment(s) may not be completed successfully. They may be missing or they may not fulfil the requirements.
F	Fail	Most or all assignments may not be complete. They may be missing or they may not fulfil the requirements.

Communication and Feedback

Assessment marks for individual assessed tasks will be communicated via Canvas within ten 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.

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 [Academic Integrity | HKUST – Academic Registry](#) 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