The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
UG Course Syllabus

Technical Communication II for ECE & CPEG
LANG4031
3 Credits
Prerequisites: LANG2030 or LANG2030(H)

Course Coordinator: Angie Li
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If you have any questions, your first point of contact should be your section instructor. Please find the email address on Canvas.
Office Hours: Available by appointment only

Course Description

LANG 4031 is a three-credit course offered to final year ECE and CPEG students who are 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. Material used in the course is drawn from ECE sources. The course focuses on two areas:

1. *Communication in professional contexts*

You will research an ECE opportunity and issue, identify a trend and development of an ECE topic, analyse the impacts and potential of this development, and explain its commercial applications in an individual technology blog post and an interview presentation. You will read, view and discuss materials on ECE-related topics from a variety of genres. You will also analyse the audience and communicative purpose of different types of written texts.

2. *Communication for academic purposes*

You will develop your ability to use appropriate language to write about your FYP work. Course materials will focus on introducing the project and objectives, literature survey, describing and evaluating progress. You will learn through revising the material you have got for your FYP. You will also learn how to present information coherently and for maximum impact on the audience in a poster presentation on your progress in the FYP.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

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

Knowledge and Content Related

1. Identify and address the needs and concerns of a variety of academic and professional audiences in speaking and writing.
2. Support claims with appropriate evidence and properly acknowledge sources.

3. Critically analyze and discuss major issues and recent developments in your major and related professions.

Academic Skills and Competencies

4. Recognize and use appropriate organizational structure, tone, and formatting in written and spoken communication for different audiences and purposes.
5. Select, summarize, and synthesize information from texts in your major subject.
6. Use accurate and fluent language (vocabulary, structures, and style) relevant to engineeringrelated communication tasks.

Ethical Standards

7. Demonstrate academic integrity in course assignments.

Vision and Orientation to the Future

8. Recognize the need to communicate courteously and appropriately in professional contexts.

Assessment and Grading

This course will be assessed using criterion-referencing and grades will not be assigned using a curve. Detailed rubrics for each assignment are provided on Canvas, outlining the criteria used for evaluation.

Assessments

Assessment Task	Contribution to Overall Course grade (%)	Due date
A1: An interview presentation	20%	Approx. Week 5*
A2 : A technology blog post	25%	Approx. Week 6*
A3: Peer Review of Presentation	5%	Approx. Week 5
A4: The introduction and literature review section of the Final Year Project report	25%	Approx. Week 12*
A5: A poster presentation describing progress in the Final Year Project	25%	Approx. Week 13*

* Assessment marks for individual assessed tasks will be released within two weeks of the due date.

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

Final Grade Descriptors

Grades	Short Description	Elaboration on subject grading description
A	Excellent Performance	Demonstrates a comprehensive grasp of subject matter, expertise in problem-solving, and significant creativity in thinking. Exhibits a high capacity for scholarship and collaboration, going beyond core requirements to achieve learning goals.
B	Good Performance	Shows good knowledge and understanding of the main subject matter, competence in problem-solving, and the ability to analyse and evaluate issues. Displays high motivation to learn and the ability to work effectively with others.
C	Satisfactory Performance	Possesses adequate knowledge of core subject matter, competence in dealing with familiar problems, and some capacity for analysis and critical thinking. Shows persistence and effort to achieve broadly defined learning goals.
D	Marginal Pass	Has threshold knowledge of core subject matter, potential to achieve key professional skills, and the ability to make basic judgments. Benefits from the course and has the potential to develop in the discipline.]
F	Fail	[Example: Demonstrates insufficient understanding of the subject matter and lacks the necessary problem-solving skills. Shows limited ability to think critically or analytically and exhibits minimal effort towards achieving learning goals.
		Does not meet the threshold requirements for professional practice or development in the discipline.

Course Generative 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 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.

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 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