

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

UG Course Syllabus

LANG4091: Presentation Skills for Final Year Projects

Credits: 1

Corequisite: None (though ideally FYP, Capstone project, or equivalent)

Course Coordinator: Maisie Glofcheski

Email: lcmaisieg@ust.hk

If you have any questions, your first point of contact should be your section instructor. Their email address will be available on Canvas.

Office Hours: Available by appointment only

Course Description

LANG4091 is a 1-credit, pass/fail elective offered to fourth year students completing a FYP/capstone project or equivalent, which equips students with essential skills to deliver professional, engaging, and impactful presentations. Over seven weeks, students will learn to structure research content into a clear and compelling narrative, use rhetorical strategies to engage audiences, and enhance delivery through effective voice, body language, and visual aids. Through targeted practice, peer review, and personalised feedback, students will refine their ability to adapt presentations for both technical and non-technical audiences. The course culminates in a final presentation simulation with Q&A, preparing students for academic, professional, and public speaking contexts.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

1. Apply storytelling and narrative structuring to create clear, coherent, and engaging presentations.
2. Adapt language, content, and delivery strategies for both technical and non-technical audiences.
3. Use rhetorical and linguistic strategies to explain complex ideas clearly.
4. Integrate voice and body language to enhance message clarity and engagement.
5. Design clear, persuasive, and audience-appropriate visual aids.
6. Provide and apply constructive peer feedback to improve presentation skills.

Assessment and Grading

This is a Pass/Fail course assessed using criterion-referencing. Students must achieve a **passing standard in all assessment components** to pass the course (see below).

Assessment Task	Weighting	Description	Due Date
Learning Portfolio	50%	Weekly submissions of slides/scripts for each section of the FYP presentation, with short reflections on peer/instructor feedback.	Twice Weekly
Participation & Peer Review	20%	Active participation in class discussions, activities, and peer review tasks.	Twice Weekly
Interim Presentation	10%	15-minute individual or group presentation on FYP/capstone project research sections in progress.	Week 3
Final Presentation	20%	30-minute group presentation simulating final FYP/Capstone defense, including a visual aid component and 5-minute Q&A session.	Week 6 & 7

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.