

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
Course Syllabus
Fall 2026-27

Communicating Research in English

LANG5005

1 credit

Pre-requisites: N/A

Co-requisites: N/A

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Office Hours of Course Coordinators: Available by appointment only

Course Description

This course aims to help research postgraduate students to develop skills they need to understand how to successfully communicate research in English to academic, cross-disciplinary and non-specialist audiences.

This course combines blended and active learning. Students are required to complete self-study online activities before attending classes. Students are required to attend F2F classes and individual consultations that consolidate the self-study activities. The flipped design of the course will enable students to understand and produce distinctive features of research texts at their own pace and in relation to their own research both inside and outside the classroom. In the classroom, students will benefit from the support of, and feedback from, peers and CLE faculty. This feedback from peers in similar and dissimilar fields and from disciplinary insiders and outsiders will enable students to understand the similar and differing perspectives of, and to cater to, specialists and non-specialists in their area.

Course Content Overview

Week	Topics
1	Unit 1: Making a research contribution
2	Unit 2: Making a research argument
3	Unit 3: Making claims and asking questions
4	Unit 4: Reading for good writing 1 (abstracts)
5	Unit 5: Talking about research
6	Unit 6: Presenting research
7	Unit 7: Writing for good reading 1 (connectedness)
8	Presentation Assessment (in-class)
9	Unit 8: Reading for good writing 2 (literature reviews)

10	Unit 9: Writing for good reading 2 (style)
11-12	Consultations
13	Written Assessment due (on Canvas)

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

1. Describe and apply academic, stylistic, and rhetorical conventions of research text genres
2. Communicate in speech and in writing critical and analytical interpretations of research texts
3. Communicate a persuasive research argument and contribution
4. Express a confident research persona through an engaging style of communication for academic and professional success
5. Communicate research effectively to academic, cross-disciplinary, and non-specialist audiences

Assessment and Grading

Presentation	Give a persuasive talk about something from your field or research or your research journey that you can make <i>understandable to everyone</i> in the audience
Research writing	Choose one of the following options: A general review of a <i>general</i> field or sub-field that identifies <i>key positive contributions</i> and outlines <i>key general challenges or opportunities</i> A critical review of a <i>specific</i> research area that identifies a <i>specific gap or opportunity</i> and suggests possible <i>specific contributions</i> that may follow from undertaking the research
Self-directed learning	Complete brief, weekly pre-class blended learning activities that you share and discuss in class with peers

Assessments

This course is graded pass/fail. But you will receive guidance and constructive critique on your tasks, presentation and assessed research writing.

To pass this course, you need to complete three assessments:

1. at least 80% of the self-study tasks
2. an in-class presentation on your research
3. a written general/critical review of your field

Mapping of Course ILOs to Assessment Tasks

Assessed Task	Mapped ILOs
Self-directed learning	ILO1-5
Practice presentation	ILO2-5
Research writing	ILO1-3, 5

Course AI Policy

1. Students may use AI to find content and generate ideas, e.g., to produce sets of notes or summaries for themselves. Students must verify any information AI provides.
2. Students may not cite AI as a source of information or an author of texts.
3. Students may use GenAI to help proofread their texts.
4. Students are therefore expected to write their assessed research writing themselves. GenAI may serve as a helpful assistant but not an author.

5. Students must submit a generative AI declaration with their research writing assignment

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.