Department of English
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

COURSE OUTLINE

Module code and title: ENGE 4700
Independent Research Project

Course description

In this capstone course, English majors in their final year of studies will carry out independent research on a topic approved by the Department and supervised by a teacher. It may involve a major essay (15-20 pages) in literature or linguistics, or it may be interdisciplinary. It may also take the form of a project or creative work such as a collection of poetry or short stories. The major paper/project must include critical reflection on the research process, build on undergraduate learning in the major, and make connections with future studies/career plans. The proposal for this course must be submitted to the Department before the term begins. At the end of the semester, all students taking ENGE 4700 will give an oral presentation and be evaluated by a panel of teachers and peers.

Learning Outcome

Upon successful completion of this course students should be better able to:
- synthesize, consolidate, and build on past undergraduate learning in the major, while at the same time to develop advanced knowledge and skills within one subject area of interest.
- link past undergraduate learning in the major to future life after graduation, whether this is in the form of relating subject knowledge to further studies, career plans, or other ideas. This means to achieve effective bridging from knowledge and skills in the major to the real-world context of post-graduation life.
- further consolidate, develop, and enhance good communication skills in the global language of English, both in the written and the spoken form.
- further consolidate, develop, and enhance critical, analytical, and logical thinking skills.

Course activities & Assessment

Component	**Percentage**
Attendance at Capstone Presentations (at least one full session)	30%
Final Paper	70%

Course grade descriptors

Grade	Descriptor	
A	Excellent	Outstanding performance on ALL learning outcomes. Demonstrates the ability to synthesize and apply the principles or skills learned in the course in a manner that would surpass the normal expectations at this level and typical of standards that may be common at higher levels of study. The 'A' grade is reserved for truly excellent work that exceeds the level expected for the majority of students and are expected to be achieved only by a small minority.
A-	Very Good	Generally outstanding performance on ALMOST ALL learning outcomes. Demonstrates the ability to synthesize and apply the principles or skills learned in the course in a manner that would fully fulfill the normal expectations.
B+	Good (Plus)	HIGH performance on all learning outcomes, OR HIGH performance on some learning outcomes which compensates WELL for slightly less satisfactory performance on others, resulting in overall substantial performance. Demonstrates the ability to apply WELL the principles or skills learned in the course in a comprehensive manner that would sufficiently fulfill the normal expectations at this level WELL.
B	Good	SUBSTANTIAL performance on all learning outcomes, OR SUBSTANTIAL performance on some learning outcomes which compensates for slightly less satisfactory performance on others, resulting in overall substantial performance. Demonstrates the ability to apply the principles or skills learned in the course in a MORE COMPREHENSIVE manner that would sufficiently fulfill the normal expectations at this level.
B-	Good (Minus)	GOOD performance on all learning outcomes, OR GOOD performance on some learning outcomes which compensates for slightly less satisfactory performance on others, resulting in overall substantial performance. Demonstrates the ability to apply the principles or skills learned in the course in a COMPREHENSIVE manner that would sufficiently fulfill the normal expectations at this level.
C+	Adequate (Plus)	VERY ADEQUATE performance on the majority of learning outcomes. Demonstrates the ability to apply the principles or skills learned in the course in a SOMEWHAT SUSTAINED manner that would meet the basic requirement at this level.
C	Adequate	ADEQUATE performance on the majority of learning outcomes. Demonstrates the ability to partially apply the principles or skills learned in the course in a manner that would meet the basic requirement at this level.
C-	Adequate (Minus)	SOMEWHAT ADEQUATE performance on A NUMBER OF learning outcomes. Demonstrates the ability to SOMEWHAT apply the principles

		or skills learned in the course in a manner that would meet the BARE basic requirement at this level.
D+	Pass (Plus)	BARELY SATISFACTORY performance on A FEW learning outcomes. Addresses the task inadequately by meeting the basic requirement at this level only in some areas while responding minimally with possibly tangential content in others.
D	Pass	ALMOST BARELY SATISFACTORY performance on VERY FEW learning outcomes. Addresses the task inadequately by meeting the basic requirement at this level only in very few areas while responding very minimally with possibly tangential content in others.
F	Failure	Unsatisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes, OR failure to meet specified assessment requirements. Fails to address the task and likely does not understand what the task requires. In other words, the work completely misses the point.

Course topics, readings, and activities (subject to change)

Reading relevant to the student's research or creative work project will be approved by the supervisor.