Department of English
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

COURSE OUTLINE

Module code and title: ENGE 4701
Independent Research Project I

Course description
ENGE4701 is the first in a two-part capstone series for final-year English majors, designed to support students as they embark on independent research projects. The research may involve a major essay 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. Under the guidance of a faculty supervisor and with approval from the Department, students will develop comprehensive project plans and participate in peer-led discussions sharing initial proposals, pilot studies, material from developing literature reviews, and/or preliminary drafts of creative work. This preparatory phase emphasizes critical reflection and requires students to integrate their undergraduate learning while establishing connections to future academic or career goals. The course culminates in an assessed project outline, forming the foundation for continued development in ENGE 4702. Completion of ENGE 4701 and 4702 is mandatory for all English majors entering the program in the 2025-2026 academic year or later.

After completing ENGE 4701, students are expected to be able to:

1. Demonstrate clear understanding of disciplinary standards and relevant scholarly conversations in their chosen field of emphasis (English Literary Studies, Applied English Linguistics, or Creative Writing);
2. Participate constructively in peer-led discussions and presentation sessions to provide and receive feedback for developing projects;
3. Apply research methodologies and resources effectively to support project development;
4. Demonstrate the ability to synthesize prior academic learning;
5. Construct a project outline that prepares them for continued development in ENGE 4702.

Milestones

Week	Milestone	Description
1-3	Initial Group Meeting; Student-led Discussion of Plans	Overview of course requirements and expectations; potential project discussion and guidance; peer feedback on initial development of project plans

4-8	Preliminary Implementation/Data Collection	Initial project implementation, including development of literature review and/or data collection and analysis; continued peer discussion and feedback;
9-12	Developing Implementation/Data Collection	Continued development of literature review and/or data collection and analysis; continued peer discussion and feedback
13	Capstone Presentations; Project Outline due Friday of Week 13 at 5:00 PM.	Attend at least one full Capstone Presentation session; submission of project outline for next semester

Course activities & Assessment

Component	**Percentage**
Participation in peer group discussion	30%
Attendance at Capstone Presentations (at least one full session)	20%
Project Outline	50%

Course grade descriptors

Grade	**Descriptor**	
P	Pass	Satisfactory performance on the course learning outcomes. Demonstrates adequate understanding and application of the key concepts, principles, or skills covered in the course, and fulfills the essential requirements of the assessment tasks. Work meets the minimum standard expected at this level of study.
F	Failure	Unsatisfactory performance on the course learning outcomes. Demonstrates insufficient understanding and application of the key concepts, principles, or skills covered in the course, and/or fails to complete the required assessment tasks. Work does not meet the minimum standard expected at this level of study.

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.