Department of English
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

COURSE OUTLINE

Module code and title: ENGE 4702
Independent Research Project II

Course description
ENGE 4702 is the second course in the capstone series for final-year English majors, building on the preparatory work completed in ENGE 4701. This course guides students through the intermediate and final stages of their independent research projects, under the supervision of a faculty member. 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. At the end of the semester, all students enrolled in ENGE 4702 will deliver an oral presentation to an audience of their peers and a panel of instructors, with the evaluation conducted by the instructors. 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 4702, students are expected to be able to:

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Further consolidate, develop, and enhance good communication skills in the global language of English.

Milestones

Week	Milestone	Description
1-2	Beginning-of-semester Individual Meetings	Individual guidance and project discussions

3-12	Data Collection and Analysis; Literary Analysis Development; and/or Creative Research Development [Week 3: If changing topic, new Project Outline due]	Continued group and/or individual meetings and project development
13-14	Oral presentations	Presentation of project to an audience of peers and professors
15	Final Written Component	Submission of the final written portion (literary analysis essay, research write-up, or creative text) including the critical reflection on the oral presentation

Course activities & Assessment

Component	**Percentage**
Capstone presentation	30%
Capstone Final Written Component (final written output, including critical reflection on the oral presentation)	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 project will be approved by the supervisor.