

Communication-intensive Course Syllabus Statement

CAES9930 Research Writing in the Social Sciences



This is a certified Communication-intensive (CI) Course which meets all of the requirements endorsed by HKU's Senate, including

- the teaching and assessment of oral and written communication 'literacies'; and
- at least 40% of the course grade assigned to communication-rich assessment tasks.

What communication knowledge and skills will students learn in this course?

In this course students will learn how to write a literature review and a research report involving collection and analysis of empirical data in their own discipline in social sciences. They will learn the rhetorical components of different sections of a research paper. They will also learn how to express their stance in academic writing, explain and justify the research design of their empirical study, and present and evaluate their research findings. They will also present their research in an oral presentation. Specific knowledge and skills to be learnt will include: ability to synthesise and present ideas concisely, clearly and coherently; using evaluative language to express one's stance; employing appropriate rhetorical and linguistic devices in written and spoken texts for academic purposes and for a lay audience.

How will students learn these?

Students will learn and practice these through examining and discussing a number of authentic academic texts (e.g. literature review papers and research articles); analysing and discussing variations displayed in research papers from different social sciences disciplines and of both qualitative and quantitative research methods; and giving and receiving constructive peer and teacher feedback in different assessed and non-assessed tasks.

What does a good communicator look like in this course?

At the end of the course, students will have developed the following qualities of an effective communicator: articulating a coherent and logical argument, expressing their stance in an academic text, giving and receiving constructive feedback, and sensitivity to the needs of the readers or audience.