City University of Hong Kong Course Syllabus

Department of English with effect from Semester A 2020/2021

Part I Course Over	view
Course Title:	English Communication Skills for Computing
Course Code:	EN4262
Course Duration:	1 semester
Credit Units:	2
Level:	B4
Proposed Area: (for GE courses only)	☐ Arts and Humanities ☐ Study of Societies, Social and Business Organisations ☐ Science and Technology
Medium of Instruction:	English
Medium of Assessment:	English
Prerequisites: (Course Code and Title)	GE1401 University English & GE2410 English for engineering
Precursors: (Course Code and Title)	Nil
Equivalent Courses : (Course Code and Title)	Nil
Exclusive Courses: (Course Code and Title)	Nil

Part II **Course Details**

1. **Abstract**

(A 150-word description about the course)

This course aims to develop students' fluency in written and spoken English for academic research communication in the field of computer science, and in particular to instruct student in developing research reports and oral presentations of their final year projects. Students enrolled on EN4262, therefore, must also be concurrently enrolled on a Final Year Project course.

2. **Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)**

(CILOs state what the student is expected to be able to do at the end of the course according to a given standard of performance.)

No.	CILOs#	Weighting*		ery-en	
		(if	curricu	ılum re	lated
		applicable)		g outco	
			`*	e tick	where
			approp	riate)	
			A1	A2	A3
1.	compile end-text references according to the	10%	✓	√	
	conventions used in the field of computer science;				
2.	produce academic prose that draws on other texts	20%	✓	✓	✓
	appropriately cited according to the conventions used				
	in the field of computer science;				
3.	produce an effectively organized and	40%	√	√	✓
	well-documented Final Year Project Report;				
4.	deliver effectively an intellectually engaging oral	30%	√	√	✓
	presentation of a research project and skilfully address				
	questions raised in the question and answer session.				
* If we	eighting is assigned to CILOs, they should add up to 100%.	100%			

^{*} If weighting is assigned to CILOs, they should add up to 100%.

Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to self-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

[#] Please specify the alignment of CILOs to the Gateway Education Programme Intended Learning outcomes (PILOs) in Section A of Annex.

3.

Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs) (TLAs designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs.)

TLA Brief Description		CILO No.					Hours/semester
	•	1	2	3	4		
Compiling	Students will learn how to	√					4 hours
end-text-reference	compile end-text references by						
skills	examining and analyzing two						
	systems of end-text referencing						
	conventions (the numbered style						
	and the author-year style)						
	followed in five research articles.						
	Teacher guides students to						
	identify the types of bibliographic						
	details to document, how to						
	arrange and format the details.						
	Students will be provided						
	exercises that draw on authentic						
	materials to consolidate their						
	end-text-referencing skills.						
Composing	Students will learn to produce		√				4 hours
academic prose	academic prose that draws on						. 110 0115
from sources	other texts. In particular, they will						
Hom sources	learn the numbered-style and the						
	author-year style in-text citation						
	skills by reading and analyzing						
	the citations in the same articles						
	used for CILO 1. Teacher will						
	guide students to identify the						
	conventions and writing skills						
	associated with direct and indirect						
	citations. Among the items to						
	learn are a) types of bibliographic						
	information to provide b)						
	differences between						
	information-prominent and						
	author-prominent citations, c)						
	differences between paraphrasing						
	and direct citations d) reporting						
	verbs, and e) formatting. Students						
	will be given exercises to						
	consolidate their knowledge of						
	and writing skills to produce						
	in-text citations						
Producing a Final	Students will learn to produce a		√	√			10 hours
Year Project	Final Year Project Report mainly						To Hours
Report	by reading and analyzing some						
Report	sample Final Year Project						
	Reports and Research Articles						
	published in journals of Computer						
	Science. In particular, they will						
	be guided to identify the format,						
	organization and genre-specific						
	language of the Final Year						
	Project Report. They will also be						
	1 1 10 Jeet Report. They will also be		1		1		1

	provided exercises and short writing tasks that draw on authentic materials to reinforce their learning that prepare them to produce a Final Year Project Report.				
Making an intellectually engaging oral presentation of a research project and handling in the answer and question time	Students will be shown a short video clip illustrating oral presentation skills that can effectively engage the audience. Students will be guided to explore the communicative purposes of research presentations for assessment purposes. Students will also be guided to analyze the language used in different parts of a presentation and how they should interpret and handle questions raised by the audience.	\	\		10 hours

4. Assessment Tasks/Activities (ATs)

(ATs are designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs.)

Assessment Tasks/Activities	CILO No.				Weighting*	Remarks				
	1	2	3	4						
Continuous Assessment:%	Continuous Assessment:%									
Students will produce a part	√	√	√	√		65%	Individual work			
draft of a Final Year Project										
Report.										
Students will make intellectually engaging presentations of their final year projects and skilfully address questions raised in the question and answer session		√		√		30%	Individual work			
Class attendance and in class participation	√	√	√	√		5%	Individual work			
Examination:% (duration:	•	,	if ap	plical	ole)	•				

^{*} The weightings should add up to 100%.

100%

Part draft of Final Year Project Report

Criteria	Outstanding	Good	Fair	Marginal	Failed
Content & Organization	 A focused and well-balanced survey of the literature is provided. The survey is well-connected to the project. An elaborate and a cogent critique(s) of the literature is provided. The critique(s) translates well into a convincing justification for the project being undertaken. The writing is very well-developed. Logical/thematic jumps are almost non-existent. The writing is well-sectioned. Well-designed graphics are provided. The graphics are provided with useful commentaries. 	 A fairly well-focused and fairly well-balanced survey of the literature is provided. The survey is fairly well-connected to the project. A fairly elaborate and somewhat cogent critique of the literature is provided. The critique somehow lends to the justification of the project being undertaken. The writing is fairly well-sectioned The ideas are in general quite logically developed Occasional logical/thematic jumps are evident. Graphics are used. Most of the graphics are effectively/ fairly effectively designed. Most of the graphics are provided with commentaries. 	 A survey of literature is provided. A few major parts of the survey are irrelevant to the project. A rather short critique of the literature is provided. The critique in general lacks cogency. The writing on the whole is adequately sectioned The writing is somewhat organized. A noticeable number of logical jumps are observed which make the piece somewhat difficult to follow. Graphics are provided. Few of the graphics are accompanied by commentaries that are needed. 	 A survey of the literature is provided. The survey lacks a clear focus The survey bears a very weak link to the project. An extremely short critique of the literature is provided. The critique is poorly developed. The writing is poorly sectioned. Ideas are on the whole poorly developed, which makes the piece quite difficult to follow. Graphics are poorly designed and no commentaries are provided. 	 Many of the content requirements set for the assignment are not met. Ideas discussed are in general irrelevant to the project. No sectioning is evident. There is a serious lack of coherence in the writing. The flow and/or logic of the writing is extremely difficult to follow.
Citations	• An impressive number (well above 7) of recognized sources are	• Seven recognized sources are cited.	• Only 4 to 6 sources are cited.	• Only 1 to 3 sources are cited.	No source is cited.Extensive plagiarism is

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	cited. Ideas cited are well-integrated. No sign of plagiarism is detected. Syntactical forms and citation verbs are effectively used. A consistent style of citation is applied. All in-text citations are accurately and properly documented. All end-text references are accurately and properly documented. The piece on the whole reflects a very sophisticated mastery of citation skills and citation language.	 Ideas cited are fairly well-integrated. No sign of plagiarism is detected. Syntactical forms and citation verbs are fairly effectively used. Occasional and minor inconsistencies in the style of citation are evident. Occasional errors made in in-text and end-text citations. The piece on the whole reflects a good mastery of citation skills and citation language. 	 Ideas cited are adequately integrated; No sign of plagiarism is detected. Syntactical forms and citation verbs are adequately used. A fair amount of inconsistency in the style of citation is observed. A fair amount of errors are made in individual in-text and end-text citations. On the whole, the piece reflects the writer's partial mastery of citation skills and citation language. 	 Cited ideas are poorly integrated No sign of plagiarism is detected. Syntactical forms and citation verbs are inappropriately used. A great deal of inconsistency in the style of citation is observed. A great number of errors are made in individual in-text and end-text citations. The piece reflects a poor mastery of citation skills and language. 	detected.
Language & formatting Language Formatting	 Ideas are communicated very clearly, effectively and succinctly. The writing is well-proofread and in general displays a close-to-perfect and very sophisticated mastery of the English syntax. Words and expressions are used very appropriately. The piece on the whole suggests that the student possesses an impressive size of vocabulary. The piece reflects a very advanced mastery of the academic register. No sign of plagiarism is 	 Ideas are communicated quite clearly. The writing displays a good mastery of the English syntax. Most of the words and expressions are used quite appropriately. The piece on the whole reflects a good mastery of the academic register. No sign of plagiarism is detected. 	 Some crucial ideas are somewhat vaguely communicated. The piece lacks careful proofreading or displays only an adequate mastery of the English syntax. A noticeable amount of words and expressions are inappropriately used. The piece on the whole displays a satisfactory mastery of the academic register. Some signs of plagiarism are detected (20-30% excluding the 	 Many crucial ideas are vaguely communicated. The piece displays a poor mastery of the English syntax. Most of the words and expressions are inappropriately used. The piece also displays a poor mastery of the academic register. Some signs of plagiarism are detected (31-40%, excluding the properly cited parts). 	 Extensive plagiarism is detected (41 % or above). OR The piece displays an extremely poor mastery of the English language, which makes the writing extremely difficult to comprehend.

dete	etected.		properly cited parts).		
grap effe prof • The	ne piece, including its aphics, is very fectively and ofessionally formatted. ne formatting meets all e requirements set for the	 The piece, including its graphics, is quite effectively and professionally formatted. The formatting meets 	 The piece, including its graphics, is adequately formatted. A few of the formatting requirements are not met. 	 The piece, including its graphics, is poorly formatted. A few of the formatting requirements are not met. 	 The piece, including its graphics, is extremely poorly formatted. Many of the formatting requirements are not met.
assi	signment.	all the requirements set for the assignment.			

Oral Presentation

Criteria	Outstanding	Good	Fair	Marginal	Failed
Content	 Background of project & report of the progress succinctly provided Novel and interesting aspects of the solutions presented Ideas very clearly presented. Audience's attention captured throughout Lively discussions attracted. Very appropriate time allocation for background and core information 	 Background and report of progress fairly succinctly provided Aspects of the solutions presented Ideas fairly and clearly presented Ideas fairly interesting to the audience A fair amount of discussions attracted. Fairly appropriate allocation of time for background and core information 	 Only background or progress provided Some aspects of the solutions highlighted Some ideas presented somewhat unclear Ideas presented on the whole rather dry and not much audience attention captured. Not much discussion is attracted in the Q/A time Adequate allocation of time for background/core information The presentation overrun by 2-3 minutes 	 Progress or background of project vaguely provided Not much of the solutions presented Ideas presented on the whole unclear Ideas presented on the whole very dry, capturing very little audience's attention Very little discussion attracted in the Q/A time Overrun by 4-5 minutes 	 No background or progress provided Ideas very dry Failing to capture the audience's attention No discussion attracted during the Q/A time Seriously overrun A severe lack of clarity throughout

Overall structure/ coherence	Very well-organized with a creative opening remark an effectively sectioned body a thoughtful conclusion The ideas very logically developed and well-connected	Quite well-organized with a fairly creative opening remark a fairly well-sectioned body a fairly thoughtful conclusion Ideas fairly logically developed with some minor digression	 Adequately organized with a very brief/dry opening remark a body a very short conclusion. Some major ideas not logically developed or not connected 	 Poorly structured No opening remark No thoughtful conclusion Ideas mostly poorly developed or not logically connected 	 There is no structure to the presentation Ideas are not logically connected at all
Design of visuals/other forms of medium	A variety of visuals/media used. Very concise Very focused Appropriate sizes of images/texts used Effectively illustrating, supporting or complementing what the presenter orally presents Creatively designed Very professionally designed	A fair amount/variety of visuals/media used A few visuals somewhat	A very limited variety used Few images/graphics used A noticeable number of visuals somewhat	 Variety lacking in general Few images/graphics used Visuals mostly wordy cluttered Very inappropriate sizes of images / texts Many visuals carrying mostly the presenter's script. Very little creativity reflected 	redundant No creativity reflected
Non-verbal delivery	 Very assertive, relaxed and natural throughout Effective and explicit reference made to specific parts of visuals Audience allowed enough time to browse crucial parts of the visuals Natural /sufficient eye contact and body language Very effective non-verbal communication throughout 	 Quite assertive and natural most of the time Explicit references made to their specific parts somewhat frequently Rushing through some visuals. Attempts made to communicate with the audience through eye contact and body language Somewhat effective non-verbal communication in certain parts 	Somewhat nervous and quite unnatural Reading somewhat frequently from slides / notes Occasional explicit references made to specific parts of visuals Rushing through most visuals Infrequent eye contact and little body language Somewhat ineffective non-verbal communication in a noticeable number of parts	 Very nervous and very unnatural Quite frequent reading from slides / notes Very few explicit references made to specific parts of visuals Lacking eye contact and body language Very ineffective non-verbal communication throughout 	 Presenter seriously lacking confidence and appearing extremely uneasy Reading from slides / notes throughout No explicit reference made to specific parts of visuals A severe lack of eye contact and body language Lacking non-verbal communication with the audience throughout.

Handling the Q/A time	 Very natural, assertive and well-composed Providing well-elaborated and sensible responses Responses all very sensible Providing very effective back channels, and doing so in very assertive/sophisticated manner 	Quite assertive and well-composed Providing somewhat elaborate and sensible responses Providing somewhat effective back channels	 Somewhat uneasy, nervous and defensive at times. Attempts made to provide elaborate and sensible responses but with some struggles Displaying somewhat limited or inappropriate back channels 	 Very uneasy and nervous Somewhat over-defensive Providing clipped responses. Displaying very few or very inappropriate back channels 	 Extremely uneasy and nervous Extremely defensive Unable to provide any response Displaying no back channel at all or displaying inappropriate back channels all the time
Language	Very spontaneous; no scripted speech Very fluent throughout Demonstrating a close-to-perfect and very sophisticated mastery of the following aspects of the English language: the syntax the phonology the vocabulary of the language the register of research presentations pragmatics needed in the Q/A time	Very spontaneous. No scripted speech Quite fluent throughout. Demonstrating an intermediate to advanced mastery of the following aspects of the English language:	 The presentation somewhat spontaneous. Occasional reading from notes/slides Lacking fluency in a number of parts Displaying a fairly acceptable mastery of the following aspects of the English language: the syntax the phonology the register of research presentations pragmatics needed in the Q/A time 	 The presentation not very spontaneous. Frequent reading from notes/slides Lacking fluency in most parts Displaying a poor mastery of the following aspects of the English language: the syntax the phonology the register of research presentations pragmatics needed in the Q/A time. 	Lacking spontaneity severely Presentation scripted entirely OR Lacking fluency throughout Displaying a severely poor mastery of the following aspects of the English language: the syntax the phonology the register of research presentations pragmatics needed in the Q/A time
	Very clear	Quite clear	Unclear pronunciation	• Frequent slurring	Slurring all the time
	pronunciation	Voice well-projected	occasionally	Poor voice projection	• Extremely poor voice
	Voice well-projected	and quite audible	Somewhat satisfactory	and some parts inaudible	projection and speech
	and very audible	• Grade of the assignment	projection and speech	• Grade of the assignment	almost entirely
		is capped at most B	somewhat audible	is capped at C+	inaudible

			• Grade of the assignment		• Grade of assignment is
			is capped at most B-		capped at D
Overall evaluation	Highly intellectually	Quite intellectually	Fairly intellectually	Not intellectually	Not engaging at all
Overan evaluation	engaging	engaging	engaging	engaging	

Class attendance and participation

	Outstanding	Good	Satisfactory	Marginal	Failed
Attendance & punctuality	Attended all classes Punctual all the time	Attended 90-99% of the classes Punctual for 90-99% of the lessons	Attended 80-89 % of the classes Punctual for 70-89% of the lessons	Attended 80 to 89 % of the classes Punctual for 50-69% of the lessons	 Attended less than 80% of the classes * Punctual for less than 50% of the lessons
Participation in class and group activities	 Very proactive Very frequent Made excellent contributions in class discussions 	 Quite frequent Made good contributions in class discussions	Occasional Made adequate contributions in class discussions	SeldomMade few contributions in class discussions	 Never Made no contributions in class discussions
Use of English	Always spoke in English in class.	Frequently spoke in English and seldom spoke in languages other than English in class.	Often spoke English and occasionally spoke in languages other than English in class.	• Frequently spoke in languages other than English and some use of English in class.	Always spoke in languages other than English and never spoke in English in class.

Part III Other Information (more details can be provided separately in the teaching plan)

1. Keyword Syllabus

(An indication of the key topics of the course.)

Final year project reports, oral presentations, citation, research writing in Computer Science,

2. Reading List

2.1 Compulsory Readings

(Compulsory readings can include books, book chapters, or journal/magazine articles. There are also collections of e-books, e-journals available from the CityU Library.)

1. Weissberg, R. & Buker, S. (1990). Writing Up Research: Experimental Research Report Writing for Students of English Prentice-Hall: London.

2.2 Additional Readings

1.	Collins COBUILD English Language Dictionary. (2006). London: Collins.
2.	Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English. (2005). Harlow, Essex: Longman.