

City University of Hong Kong

**Information on a Course
offered by School of Energy and Environment
with effect from Semester A in 2014 / 2015**

Part I

Course Title: Scientific Writing and Communication

Course Code: SEE8002

Course Duration: 1 Semester

Credit Units: 3

Level: R8

Medium of Instruction: English

Prerequisites: Nil

Precursors: Nil

Equivalent Courses: Nil

Exclusive Courses: Nil

Part II

Course Aims

The course aims to provide training in scientific writing and academic presentation skills, while broadening the scientific horizon of postgraduate students in the fields of energy and environment. Students are taught the basic principles of: (i) logical organization and presentation of research work; (ii) effective scientific writing and drawing (iii) the scientific journal, submission and review processes (iv) development of effective presentation techniques. The course also contributes to the systematic building of self-confidence, providing rational and logical presentation of research results, as well as criticising or defending the conclusions made.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (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)

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

No.	CILOs	Weighting (if applicable)
1.	recognise the objective and motivation of research work, and apply the principles of good scientific writing in presenting abstract, introduction, results, discussion conclusions, figures, tables and references. Students should also recognise the ethics in academic reporting and learn how to develop good habits in writing.	6
2.	present the topics and results of their own research in an organized and rational manner, effectively use data and scientific principles to support rational conclusions and defend them in the discussion part of a research presentation.	4
3.	comment critically on other research presentations and provide constructive ideas to presenters in a self-confident manner. Students should also be able to chair presentation sessions.	3

Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)

(Indicative of likely activities and tasks designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs. Final details will be provided to students in their first week of attendance in this course)

CILO No.	TLAs	Hours/week (if applicable)
CILO 1	Lecture, workshops	3
CILO 2	Lectures, presentations	3
CILO 3	Lectures, seminars	3

The Postgraduate Seminar is the course conducted in semester A and B. The seminar is scheduled weekly with a two hour lecture at the beginning of the course followed by one to two different presentations in one hour block.

Assessment Tasks/Activities

(Indicative of likely activities and tasks designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs. Final details will be provided to students in their first week of attendance in this course)

CILO No.	Type of Assessment Tasks/Activities	Weighting (if applicable)	Remarks
CILO 1	Report writing	60%	
CILO 2	Presentations	20%	
CILO 3	Seminar*	20%	

*As part of the assessment task of CILO 3, the student is required to chair at least one seminar/presentation by introducing a designated presentation and leading the discussion. Each student is to attend at least 4 open seminars relevant to the topics of energy and environment.

Grading of Student Achievement: Refer to Grading of Courses in the Academic Regulations (Attachment) and to the Explanatory Notes.

The grading is based on students' performance in assessment tasks/activities.

Grade P

Student has grasped the basic principles of good scientific writing and recognise the ethics in scientific reporting. He/She is able to confidently present research topic and

findings in a rational manner, and is able to provide constructive comments to others. The student has completed all assessment tasks/activities, and attended at least 4 open seminars and chaired at least once.

Grade F

Student is unable to grasp the basic principles of good scientific writing and failed to recognise the ethics in scientific reporting. He/She is unable to confidently present research topic and findings in a rational manner, and is not able to provide constructive comments to others. The student fails to complete all assessment tasks/activities provided, and attended less than 4 open seminars and never chaired any designated seminar session.

Part III

Keyword Syllabus

There is no fixed syllabus for this course. Presentation topics are based on the research areas of the postgraduates.

Recommended Reading

Text(s)

Online Resources