

ES2631
AY 2025-26 Semester 1
Course Schedule & Assessment

Teaching Week	Pre-Lesson Preparation	Tutorial	Tasks/ Assignment deadlines
1 11-15 Aug	Online lecture: Introduction to Critique and Communication of Thinking and Design	NA	Review introductory lecture and week-by-week syllabus/ assessments
2 18-22 Aug	Online lecture: Engineering Reasoning Framework – intellectual traits and elements of thought Read Goh (2002) - article on the ERP system in Singapore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion and application of the Engineering reasoning framework: Intellectual traits and elements of thought • Assignment 1: Team project on Engineering conceptual design 	QUIZ 1: <i>Intellectual traits and elements of thought</i> (deadline: 11.59pm, 22 Aug) <u>Online exercise (1)</u> after tutorial: reflection on intellectual traits
3 25-29 Aug	Online lecture: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engineering Reasoning Framework – intellectual standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion and application of the Engineering reasoning framework: Intellectual standards • Teams and topic ideas 	QUIZ 2: <i>Intellectual standards</i> (deadline: 11.59pm, 29 Aug)
4 1-5 Sept	Online lectures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sources: Types, selection, integration and attribution • Engineering Conceptual Design • AI use and plagiarism policy documents (Sources handout) • Read Cheng et. al. (2025) – ethical considerations for AI-assisted academic writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion and activities on Sources, plagiarism and ethical AI use • Engineering conceptual design • Students work in groups to look for credible sources for their projects 	QUIZ 3: <i>Source types, selection and attribution</i> (deadline: 11.59pm, 5 Sept) <u>Online activity 2</u> (on Teams): Reference a source you have found for your project in APA format, explain why you selected it and how you intend using it in your project (deadline: by the end of Week 5) Batch 1 Group Conference on

			Assignment 1 (outside class time)
5 8-12 Sept	Online lecture: Principles of team OP	Discussion and practice: Principles of team oral presentation; handling the Q&A session.	QUIZ 4: Team OP (deadline: 11.59pm, 12 Sept) Batch 2 Group Conference on Assignment 1 (outside class time)
6 15-19 Sept	Prepare your presentation and upload your slides	Assignment 1: Team oral presentation	Completion of ASSIGNMENT 1 [30%] Video recordings to be uploaded by the end of the day
RECESS WEEK (20-28 Sept)			
7 29 Sept-3 Oct	Online lecture: Critique of engineering conceptual design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion and practice: Critique of Engineering conceptual design • Assignment 2: Critique of engineering conceptual design 	Online activity 3 to be completed after the tutorial: see tutorial handout
8 6-10 Oct	Online lecture: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic language of critique • Review sources handout in preparation to write essay 	Discussion and practice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic language of critique • Source selection, integration and attribution in writing 	QUIZ 5: Academic language of critique (deadline: 11.59pm, 10 Oct)
9 13-17 Oct	Online lecture: Critique of article	Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critique of article • Present analysis of article in groups • <i>Assignment 3: Critique of article</i> 	Submission of ASSIGNMENT 2 DRAFT for conference [ungraded]

10 20-24 Oct (20 th and 21 st are holidays)	Nil	Batch 1 online individual conference on Assignment 2 [No tutorial]	Batch 1 Submission of ASSIGNMENT 2 [25%]: 6 days after your conference
11 27-31 Oct	Nil	Batch 2 online individual conference on Assignment 2 [No tutorial]	Batch 2 Submission of ASSIGNMENT 2 [25%]: 6 days after your conference
12 3-7 Nov	Write essay draft	Peer review: warm-up exercise Exchange and in-class peer review of Assignment 3 drafts	<u>Peer feedback</u> to be submitted after the tutorial
13 10-14 Nov	Nil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recap and review Oral reflection on Assignment 3 	Submission of ASSIGNMENT 3 [25%]: 6 days after your peer review- by 11:59pm on the night before the Week 13 tutorial

I. Course Assessment

Students are assessed through group and individual work as follows:

Group (30%)

- Assignment 1: Team oral presentation [8-9 min + 7 min Q&A] - 30%

Individual (70%)

- Assignment 2: Critique of design [500-600 words] - 25%
- Assignment 3: Critique of article [500-600 words] - 25%
- Quizzes - 10% (Quizzes 1-5)

Important: Each quiz should ideally be taken after reviewing the materials for the week and before the week's tutorial. You can attempt each quiz **only once**, so please make sure you are in a quiet place, your internet connection is stable, and your laptop fully charged or connected to a power outlet before you start. You must click 'submit quiz' upon completion of the quiz or your answers will not be saved.

Class participation - 10%

This involves preparation, punctual arrival and active participation in both in-class and online activities and discussions. It also involves submitting all work on time.

II. Referencing

You are required to cite all your sources appropriately and include a generative AI use declaration with every assignment you submit.

In this course, we will use the APA citation style (7th edition) for all assignments:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/index.html

Note that **plagiarism and unethical use of AI are serious offences**. Any instance of plagiarism or unethical use of AI will be reported to the appropriate administrative and academic departments for review and could have very severe consequences for your academic career. Hence, **please review the information below as well as the lecture/video/slides on Source Selection, Integration and Attribution before you submit your assignments:**

(a) NUS Policy on Plagiarism

The NUS Policy on Plagiarism can be found at:

<https://myportal.nus.edu.sg/studentportal/student-discipline/all/docs/NUS-Plagiarism-Policy.pdf>

(b) Excerpts from NUS Interim AI Use Policy

Extracts relevant to a critical thinking and expression course like ES2631 from the NUS Interim AI Use Policy have been reproduced below for your reference. As stated in the policy document (p.4), the following are **always improper uses of AI tools**:

- Generating an output and presenting it as your own work or idea.
- Generating a draft output that is then paraphrased and presented as your own work or idea.
- Processing an original source not created by yourself to plagiarize it (e.g., using an AI paraphrasing tool to disguise someone else's original work, or even the output of another AI tool, and then presenting the final output as your own work or idea).

All of the above violate NUS policies on academic dishonesty and anyone found to have done any of them will be dealt with accordingly.

The same document lists the limitations of using the current generation of AI tools (p. 6):

- The quality of the output is dependent on the quality of the users' prompts.
- Their output may be out of date, as they are dependent on the available training data.
- Their output is not always accurate (they don't always present information that is true, the 'citations' they may generate may be made-up and point to non-existent sources).
- Their output may only represent dominant values and opinions, rather than what is objective.
- Their output is not always aligned with moral values (they sometimes present outputs that are offensive or discriminatory).

(c) Making your AI use declaration:

The AI use policy document also provides instructions on how to cite and reference information acquired through the use of generative AI (p. 5).

All submitted assignments for this course, including the slides for the Team OP, must include the following declaration:

**I/We (insert full name or names) declare that *I/we *have/have not used generative AI in the process of completing this assignment. If *I/we have used generative AI in any way to complete the assignment, this use has been documented in an appendix submitted with *my/our assignment.*

**delete as appropriate*

If you complete any work with the aid of an AI tool, you should always acknowledge the use. Using the outputs of an AI tool without proper acknowledgement is equivalent to lifting or paraphrasing a paragraph from a source without citing it and attracts the same sanctions.

You can provide this acknowledgement in an appendix at the end of the assignment explaining which AI tools were used and what they were used, such as in which parts of the process it was used, what prompts used to generate results, and what you did with the outputs to add value. One way this can be done is in a tabular form as shown below:

AI Tool Used	Prompt and output	How the output is used in the assignment

Alternatively, **if an AI tool was used to generate a more extensive set of intermediate outputs that were then developed into a final product, you should preserve a full transcript of the relevant interactions with the AI as an appendix for submission with your assignment.**

III. Penalty for late submissions and exceeding the word count

- Please submit your assignments by the given deadlines.
- If there is a problem with CANVAS, you should take a screenshot of the error message and send it to your tutor.
- **Download a digital receipt** from **Turnitin** which will show the date and time of your submission. It will serve as evidence that you have submitted your assignment in the event that your assignment cannot be found in Turnitin. Here are instructions on how to download the receipt:

<https://wiki.nus.edu.sg/display/canvasstudent/Turnitin+assignment+submission>

<i>Late submission</i>	<i>Exceeding of word limit</i>	<i>Penalty</i>	<i>Examples</i>

Up to 24 hours	More than 600 words (601 words and above)	10% of total mark will be deducted.	If total assignment mark is 70, 10% = 7 marks, so final mark = 70-7 = 63 marks
*Beyond 24 hours	*661 st word and onwards	*Not accepted/ Case-by-case basis only for students with special needs or extenuating circumstances) **Not read	*12.16am - Not accepted **Submitted 25 hours after the deadline – Not accepted

Reference

University Policy Workgroup for AI in Teaching and Learning. (2023, February 5). *NUS Interim Policy for the Use of AI in Teaching and Learning*.