

Communication-intensive Course Syllabus Statement

CCCH9056 Valuing the land: Stories from Chinese Cities



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, written and visual 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?

Students will learn oral, written and visual communication knowledge and skills.

First, oral communication knowledge and skills include designing a presentation, raising questions, structuring logical arguments to support their claims and to defend their position.

Second, the written knowledge and skills expected to be gained include writing a reflective essay in a clear, logical manner with substantive support for their claims, showing how the reading might change their thinking, notions or behaviour.

Third, the visual communication knowledge and skills have two aspects. The micro one is about how to read and understand the message from diagrams, graphs and charts and then use them to convey their own message effectively. The macro one is mainly about making an infographic with clear focus, succinct structure and solid content as well as effective design to attract the audience's attention.

How will students learn these?

Students will learn all these communication knowledge and skills through various kinds of activities.

In general, the teaching team will device exercises/guidelines for students to grasp basic ideas about those skills in class first.

For oral one, the teaching team will guide students through exercises to make them aware of good and bad practice in oral presentation, alert students of the importance of time management, the

influence of posture and effective use of voice. Students will practice the skills through individual presentation on the academic reading and discussion during Q&A sessions. They will also learn the skills by observing their classmates. Instructor/tutors will make constructive comments and feedback whenever needed to guide and improve students' performance.

For written one, the teaching team will provide guidelines/exercises to help students making their writing more comprehensible and coherent --- organization, sentence structure, verb choice, tone, etc. Students have the opportunity to write a reflective essay on their chosen research article. Guidance and clear instructions for the essay will be provided during either the lecture or tutorials. Students will receive comments/criticism from classmates and tutor during the presentation stage to consolidate their thoughts, arguments and evidence, enhancing the content of their essay.

For visual one, the teaching team will demonstrate how to read diagrams, graphs and charts to extract useful information. Students will be given opportunity to apply those skills in their oral presentation. Furthermore, students have an opportunity to collaborate with peers to work as a small group to produce an infographic to illustrate a case of their choice on the value of the land. Guidance and advice will be offered, especially the materials from TELI, for the students. Clear instruction and rubrics will be offered to focus students' attention on the key aspects for producing decent infographics.

What does a good communicator look like in this course?

At the end of the course, students will have developed the ability to read and understand recent research work and present its purpose, methodology, arguments, findings as well as limitations orally with the aid of visuals like diagrams, graphics and charts to professionals. Students will have developed the ability to reflect on their research work and synthesize their previous knowledge or personal experience to effectively communicate to an educated audience in writing. Students will have acquired the skills to collaborate with their peers to produce an infographic to convey essential message about value of land to the general public.