HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY
COURSE OUTLINE

1. COURSE TITLE

Writing for Science

2. COURSE CODE

WRIT2016

3. NO. OF UNITS

3 Units

4. OFFERING DEPARTMENT

Department of Humanities and Creative Writing

5. PREREQUISITES

Nil

6. MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION

English

7. AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The course aims to introduce the interested student to the excitement and challenge of science writing, which concerns itself with the communication of scientific knowledge and discovery to the educated layman.

8. COURSE CONTENT

1. The attitude of the science writer
2. Science as a way of knowing and thinking as an extension of commonsense
3. How the modern world gives rise to the Age or Reason, the Industrial Revolution, and the various social revolutions of recent centuries
4. The essential dialog between empiricism and theory
5. Statement and style in science writing: tentative, passive, and third person
6. The language of science
7. The goal of the effective science writer
8. Communicate science discovery to the lay public
9. How to find stories
10. Research and the interview: approaching scientists to talk about their work

11. Writing-getting started and establishing structure
12. Re-viewing-new eyes on your draft

9. COURSE INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES (CILOs)

CILO	By the end of the course, students should be able to:
CILO 1	Read effectively news articles (press releases, newspapers, magazines, web postings, etc.) concerning scientific developments.
CILO 2	Analyze different types of news articles in terms of their use of language and rhetorical expression.
CILO 3	Interview practicing scientists in terms of their work.
CILO 4	Write a story based upon interviews and other information sources communicating a body of work to the lay public in a number of different genres (e.g., press release, newspaper, or magazine article).
CILO 5	Reflect a critical thinking in a small group discussions concerning examples of writing.
CILO 6	Communicate clearly in a small group discussion.

10. TEACHING & LEARNING ACTIVITIES (TLAs)

CILO alignment	Type of TLA
1	Students will read before class both assigned background material on science writing as well as example articles for discussion.
2	In class, students will learn to analyze writing in various dimensions such as clarity of exposition, rhetorical approach, style, and the use of language.
3	Students will practice interview techniques with volunteer practicing scientists (including graduate students) concerning their research.
4	Students will practice organizing, outlining, drafting, and revising science writing for a series of genres (press release, newspaper article, and feature article).
5, 6	In class, students will learn to engage in effective discussion of writing exemplars and to orally summarize such discussions.

11. ASSESSMENT METHODS (AMs)

Type of Assessment Methods	Weighting	CILOs to be addressed	Description of Assessment Tasks
Press release	15 %	1, 2, 4	Write a brief summary of a scientific work as if it were a leading edge development in an organization you worked for [~300 words].

Newspaper article	25 %	1, 2, 3, 4	Write a more extensive report in the genre of a newspaper article on a scientific development based upon an interview with a practicing scientist [~600 words].
Featured article	40 %	1, 2, 3, 4	Write a featured article in the genre of a magazine article based upon multiple interviews (of one or more individuals) focusing either upon a body or work or featuring the work of one scientist or research group [~1200 - 1500 words]. This will be accomplished through three stages: (1)picking the topic focus; (2)organizing the material into a comprehensive outline; and (3)drafting the article.
Participation	10 %	5	Observed participation at all levels, especially with respect to in-class discussions.
Oral expression	10 %	6	All oral work including summaries of in-class discussions as well as possible practice interviewing.

Last Update: 2022-11-17
Published Date: 2022-12-23

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