

HW0205

Academic Communication in the Humanities

Study year	: SoH (ELH, HIST, PHIL) Year 1, Semester 2; HaSS Double major (ELAH) Year 1, Semester 2
Academic units	: 2 AUs
Pre-requisite	: CC0001 Inquiry and Communication in an Interdisciplinary World / HW0105 Academic Communication in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences/ HW0111 Communication: A Journey of Inquiry through Writing and Speech
Tutorial hours	: 24

COURSE AIMS

This course is a one-semester, 2-credit, course for humanities students at Nanyang Technological University (NTU). This course aims to enable humanities students to carefully analyse texts and develop a compelling thesis, particularly through lens analysis: how to use a theoretical text—concepts from a variety of disciplines—as a lens to analyse and probe a primary text. It also aims to teach students how to write successful humanities essays, by becoming adept in argumentation, using evidence, clear structure, and style.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, you should be able to:

1. close read texts;
2. apply a theoretical lens;
3. locate credible and significant sources;
4. summarise, quote, and paraphrase sources to develop your own argument;
5. connect texts using key terms;
6. formulate a thesis; and
7. revise your own writing by using peer and teacher feedback, as well as your own revising tools.

COURSE CONTENT

1. Close reading (claims and reasons, details)
2. What is lens analysis
3. Practising lens analysis
4. Substantiating claims
5. Sources and arguments
6. Key terms and coherence
7. Structure and outline
8. Clarity and conclusions

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Tutorial topics	Reading/Activities
1	No tutorial	We recommend that you read the selection of primary texts and lens texts, so you can begin to consider which ones you would like to work with.
2	Close Reading — Part 1	Practise identifying the main claims of texts.
3	Close Reading — Part 2	Practise analysing details of texts.
4	What Is Lens Analysis	Identify the purpose and goal of lens analysis.
5	Practising Lens Analysis	Practise lens analysis.
6	Substantiating Claims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explain the difference between weak and strong analysis. - Practise presenting clear written analysis. - Peer review. <p>*Assignment 1 due two days after Week 6 lesson</p>
7	NO CLASS	<p>Online Citation Unit</p> <p>*Homework: Annotated bibliography</p>
8	Sources and Arguments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify how additional sources can enhance the lens analysis argument. - Identify key concepts/ideas in your sources and ways to incorporate them into your essay draft.
9	Key Terms and Coherence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analyse how a student essay connects texts and uses key terms to form an argument. - Prepare the content of an academic oral presentation. - Practise presenting.
10	Assignment 2: In-Class Presentation	*Homework: develop an essay draft for Week 12
11	Assignment 2: In-Class Presentation	*Homework: develop an essay draft for Week 12
12	Structure and Outline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify what makes a strong thesis. - Identify the flow of good paragraphing. - Reverse outline your drafts to understand the logic of your work.

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Week	Tutorial topics	Reading/Activities
13	Clarity and Conclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Describe what makes good academic writing. - Write a compelling conclusion. - Gesture to the broader significance of your argument. <p>*Assignment 3 due two days after Week 13 lesson</p>

STUDENT ASSESSMENT

Students will be assessed by 100% continuous assessment. The assignments will focus on the course objectives of achieving proficiency in writing academic essays and presenting arguments effectively.

Assessment	Weighting
<p>Written assignments</p> <p>Students will demonstrate their mastery of skills learned in this course through 2 written assignments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Draft - 20% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Students are expected to write a first draft of their lens analysis essay that demonstrates a good understanding of both their primary and lens texts, a clear lens application that reveals something new or more nuanced about their primary text, and a paragraph of close reading to support the lens analysis claim.</i> • Final Lens Analysis Essay - 40% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Students are expected to write a final lens analysis essay that demonstrates a refinement of the earlier components based on tutor feedback and presents a clear thesis statement that threads together key ideas and terms from the primary text, lens text and additional source.</i> 	60%
<p>Academic presentations</p> <p>Students should demonstrate academic presentation skills when sharing their refined lens analysis claim, and more importantly, their chosen additional source. The presentation should contain a summary and application of the source, as well as a provisional thesis statement that demonstrates how the source refines the initial claim.</p>	25%
<p>Class participation</p> <p>In all tutorials, students are assessed on the frequency of participation in group discussions as well as the quality of the contributions. Tutors will also note student's level engagement in peer workshops, as well as their ability to keep up with choosing their primary text, lens text, and source(s) on the appropriate weeks.</p>	15%

TEXTBOOKS/REFERENCES

The course pack has been designed and printed by the Language and Communication Centre.