

**HW0208****Academic Communication in the Social Sciences**

<b>Study year</b>	: SSS (ECON, PPGA, PSY, SOC,) Year 1, Semester 2; HaSS Double major (ECMA, ECPS, ECPP, PSLM, PSMA) Year 1; MS Year 1 (cohort admitted in AY19), Semester 2
<b>Academic units</b>	: 2 AUs
<b>Pre-requisite</b>	: HW0105 Academic Communication in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences / HW0111 Communication: A Journey of Inquiry through Writing and Speech
<b>Tutorial hours</b>	: 24

**CONTENT**

The aim of this course is to teach relevant academic communication skills specifically related to the various disciplines in the Social Sciences and Maritime Studies. In this course students will learn how to read and write about discipline-specific research, and students will have the opportunity to write up a short research report and to present research relevant to their fields. The course materials have been designed in order to match the particular needs of students in the Social Sciences and Maritime Studies at NTU.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of this course are to introduce students to important aspects of academic communication, including:

1. gathering and critically evaluating relevant sources;
2. writing up a literature review;
3. presenting qualitative and quantitative data;
4. identifying and evaluating findings; and
5. completing a short research report.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

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

1. read and respond to academic texts in their respective disciplines;
2. gather and evaluate relevant academic sources;
3. write about qualitative and quantitative data; and
4. complete a short research report in the academic context.

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**COURSE SCHEDULE**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Tutorial topics</b>	<b>Reading/Activities</b>
1	No tutorial	-
2	Reading and responding to texts in the Social Sciences	Unit 1 Reading critically in the Social Sciences; and responding to texts in the Social Sciences.
3	Constructing a strong research question	Unit 2 Defining different types of sources of information; demonstrating an ability to find relevant articles on a given topic; analyzing different styles of citations.
4	The literature review (I): Structure and purpose	Unit 3 Defining the role and purpose of a literature review; understanding key features of a literature review; critically evaluating literature reviews; and applying steps involved in writing a literature review.
5	The literature review (II): Organizing and synthesizing	Unit 4 Organizing sources; identifying relevant themes; recognizing and using relational words; and drafting your own literature review.
6	The literature review (III): Peer review (online)	Unit 5 Peer reviewing for content, clarity, conciseness; cohesion; completeness; and language and style.
7	Research method: Quantitative and qualitative methods	Unit 6 Collecting and presenting qualitative and quantitative data; and understanding how to present the research methods section.
8	Writing up your results	Unit 7 Analyzing, describing, synthesizing the data for a report; and presenting the results.
9	Writing the discussion section	Unit 8 Understanding the information elements and general flow of the discussion section; and avoiding logical fallacies when constructing arguments based on the data.

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Week	Tutorial topics	Reading/Activities
10	Writing the introduction and conclusion sections	Unit 9 Identifying the major components and structure of the introduction section; understanding the rationale for the structure of the introduction section; and identifying the major components of the conclusion section.
11	Peer review (online)	Unit 10 Peer reviewing for content, clarity, conciseness; cohesion; completeness; and language and style.
12	In-class presentations	Student presentation 1. Assignment 3: presentations.
13	In-class presentations	Student presentation 1. Assignment 3: presentations.

## 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
<b>Written assignments</b> Students will write a literature review and a research paper presenting original research on a chosen topic by reviewing relevant information, providing arguments and using appropriate citation conventions.	<b>65%</b>
<b>Oral presentations</b> Students will give a presentation on the research paper.	<b>20%</b>
<b>Class participation</b>	<b>15%</b>

## TEXTBOOKS/REFERENCES

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