

EN2707 Developing Reading and Writing Skills

Course Aims & Objectives

This course aims to raise students' proficiency in written English. Students will learn to write a variety of genres including descriptive essays, narrative essays, expository essays, academic essays, as well being introduced to a number of more specialist genres in journalistic and business writing. Particular emphasis is placed on accuracy of written work. Students will also read and discuss different types of writing and develop strategies for faster reading and better comprehension. The course is run in a 'workshop' mode in which students read and comment on one another's work and publish their work on the Internet.

Teaching team

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Course materials

Wiki <http://en2707home.wetpaint.com/>

You are required to set up a group wiki and upload your assignments for assessment.

No paper submission will be accepted for this course.

You can download the handouts from this course wiki site.

Online reading materials are also uploaded for your reading.

Blackboard <http://www.cityu.edu.hk/cityu/student/index.htm>

You can download the handouts from the course wiki site.

For reading and sampler materials, please access your Blackboard site.

The syllabus

In this semester, the students will read and write on '**Hong Kong Flâneurie**'.

'Flâneurie' is the noun for the French word, flâneur. A flâneur is someone who wants to experience a city by taking a stroll. Why are we using a French word? Because there is no English equivalent! The word is also used widely in academic circles. If you are working on urban planning, architecture, cultural studies, history, economics and literature, the concept of flâneur will be introduced early on. Walter Benjamin and Charles Baudelaire had a complex theory about being a flâneur, but we can use a simplified explanation. A flâneur is strolling around town because he/she wants to understand, participate in, experience and record his/her city. A flâneur is not someone who has a preconception about his/her destination, he/she experiences the city before forming the conception. A flâneur is a passionate observer.

To give an example, a flâneur will not say 'Central is of course the heart of Hong Kong'. A flâneur walks through and around Central, and explores the different communities in Central. The IFC community is very different from the Graham Street (where is Graham Street?) community. If you walk up to the SOHO area on Sundays, it has a very different vibe from the Statue Square. It is not just a matter of area, even the time that you choose to stroll around will make a huge difference!

By strolling around different areas of Hong Kong, you are encouraged to see Hong Kong with your new eyes!

Course assignments

The assignments include:

1. The setting up and maintenance of group wiki (10%)
2. Personal English learning history (10%)
3. Collaborative writing (40%)
 - a. [Group work on Langscape of Hong Kong \(20%\)](#)
 - b. [Group work on a feature report \(20%\)](#)
4. Individual writing (40%)
 - a. [3 short pieces of writing on your group wiki \(30%\)](#)
 - b. [participation in discussion on classmates' wiki \(10%\)](#)

Important dates - you must upload your work by the following dates.

Sept 13, 2008	Set up of your group wiki
Sept 20, 2008	English learning history
Oct 25, 2008	'Hong Kong Langscape'
Nov 8, 2008	1st individual writing
Nov 22, 2008	2nd individual writing
Nov 29, 2008	3rd individual writing
Dec 7, 2008	Feature report
Dec 7, 2008	A log of your discussion participation

The Schedule

This is the tentative schedule for the Fall 08-09 Semester.

Week / Topic	Assignment / Classwork	Due Date
1. Multimodal reading and writing	Setting up of personal wiki page (10%)	
2. How I learned English	A short learner biography on English learning (10%) Students first write their own English learning histories, then read and comment on other students' learning stories. Students have to confirm their choice of HK Langscape location.	Sept 13 Set up your group wiki
3. Hearing Hong Kong	What languages do you hear in Hong Kong?	Sept 20 Your English learning history
4. Seeing Hong Kong	What languages do you see in Hong Kong?	
5. Reading Hong Kong	How is Hong Kong represented by creative artists?	
6. Langscape of Hong Kong	Is Hong Kong a multilingual city? Consultation on HK Langscape 'HK Langscape' (20%)	
Reading Week (No class)		
8. Film	Writing a creative film review	Oct 24 HK Langscape
9. Music	Writing a creative music review	
10. Short story	Writing an alternative ending Adding an extra character	Nov 8 1st individual work
11. Food	My 5-star restaurants	
12. My 2 cent opinion	Writing an editorial	Nov 22 2nd individual work
13. Multimodal reading and writing	Review of experience Consultation on Feature report	Nov 29 3rd individual work
		Dec 7 Feature report Dec 7 Discussion log

User's agreement

<http://en2707home.wetpaint.com/> is a site for a community of students on the same Reading and Writing course. We are treating this wiki as an extension beyond the classrooms. The students are posting creative works, both finished and yet-to-be-finished works. Comments and advice will be greatly appreciated. To encourage and promote the creative use of English on the course, there are some general guidelines to foster this creativity. These guidelines are generated by tutors and individual tutorial group may include other more specific guidelines.

In this wiki, we will

- only use first name in our writing;
- be responsible and sensible in our writing;
- be positive and constructive in our comments;
- respect other users' opinions and advices;
- post only original works (for all text types and files);
- respect intellectual property; and
- be responsive and open to opinions and advices.

For our tutorial group (), we would like to add the following clause(s):

I hereby agree to the general terms of use for <http://en2707home.wetpaint.com/>.

Name

Student number

Signature

Date
