

## Communication-intensive Course Syllabus Statement

### **BBED6802 Outdoor Environmental Education Experiential Learning Project**



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 written and oral 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?**

In this course, students will learn how to integrate their pedagogic skills and knowledge in conservation and apply it through designing and conducting outdoor educational programmes for a group of local school students. Specific communication knowledge and skills to be learnt will include presentation skills such as the use of voice, visual design, and gestures to deliver engaging and interactive educational programmes.

During the process of planning and executing their project, students will be actively using and building twenty-first-century skills including collaboration, critical and creative thinking and problem-solving.

To deepen their experience and that of their learners, students of this course will also engage in intensive reflection on their learning by articulating and reflecting their ideas and thoughts critically to draw meaningful connections between their observation, experience and knowledge. Not only will students learn to engage in reflective writing themselves, but they will also learn to create reflective de-briefing activities for the students attending their programme.

#### **How will students learn these?**

The course provides students with the opportunity to design an outdoor environmental education programme in collaboration with a non-governmental organization (NGO). Throughout the course, students will receive continuous support and feedback from both their instructors and mentors from the community partner. To prepare for this project, students will participate in training sessions that cover curriculum design, conservation, and reflection. Afterwards, students will form interdisciplinary teams to conduct in-depth research on a selected site and create an educational

programme at the site. To ensure that the programme is well-designed and effective, several trial runs will be conducted before the final implementation for a local school in Hong Kong, under the support of the NGO. On-site reflective and debriefing sessions will be held after each narration to help students develop a reflective habit of mind and enhance their knowledge and skills in reflection.

In the final stage of the course, students will have to compile their learning experience and reflection and conduct a group presentation to demonstrate the outcome of their reflective learning and acknowledge each other's achievements.

All in all, after receiving input on reflection and programme material design, students will engage in intensive peer feedback and evaluation, through which, they shall acquire the aforementioned communication skills.

### **What does a good communicator look like in this course?**

By the end of the course, we expect our students to embody the following qualities. Firstly, students will have the confidence to express their ideas, opinions, and perspectives in diverse contexts and to different audience. They will also be adaptable and flexible, able to respond to novel situations with creativity in executing their educational programmes in groups.

Additionally, students will demonstrate empathy towards others and develop programmes that best suit and cater to learners' needs in the context of environmental education using different visual presentations such as puzzles and orienteering games.

Lastly, students will be actively reflecting on their experiences as learners and subjecting their own beliefs, values, and behaviours to critical scrutiny using written and oral reflection. They will be open to constructive criticism from both peers and instructors, providing constructive feedback and collaborating with others to achieve a common goal.

Overall, through this course, students will develop a range of communication-related attributes that will enable them to become effective communicators in various contexts and for different audiences.