

# The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

## Subject Description Form

<b>Subject Code</b>	ABCT1000
<b>Subject Title</b>	Freshman Seminar
<b>Credit Value</b>	3
<b>Level</b>	1
<b>Pre-requisite/ Co-requisite/ Exclusion</b>	Nil
<b>Objectives</b>	<p>(a) To introduce and enthuse students in the Chemical Technology/ Applied Biology with Biotechnology or Food Safety and Technology programmes to their major disciplines;</p> <p>(b) To expose students to the basic skills of teamwork and leadership, and the concepts and an understanding of their disciplined-based professional career development with the incorporation of entrepreneurship;</p> <p>(c) To foster students' creativity, effective communications skills and innovative problem-solving abilities, as well as development of and global outlook;</p> <p>(d) To engage students, in their first year of study, in desirable forms of learning at a university setting that are conducive to smooth adjustment to University life, self-regulation, and lifelong learning.</p>
<b>Intended Learning Outcomes</b>	<p>Upon completion of the subject, students will be able to:</p> <p>(a) develop personal goal(s) and plan their own study in university</p> <p>(b) command the basic communication and interpersonal skills in teamwork</p> <p>(c) be creative and adopt different perspectives to analyze and tackle problems</p> <p>(d) appreciate spirits of entrepreneurship and innovation for benefits of mankind</p> <p>(e) develop a global outlook and passion for lifelong learning</p>

<b>Subject Synopsis/ Indicative Syllabus</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding programme design and curriculum structure</li> <li>• Facilities supporting learning in PolyU</li> <li>• Career and life planning, ways to achieve personal goals and successes</li> <li>• Frontier in sciences and innovation for discipline-majors</li> </ul>
<b>Teaching/Learning Methodology</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lectures and seminars by professors and renowned experts from various areas to inspire students about their major study and to motivate students' career aspiration.</li> <li>• Renowned experts from various areas are invited to deliver Expert Seminar to students. The speakers are not limited to scholars; entrepreneurs and leaders in specific areas would be invited. Some have been working in the industrial/ commercial sector for years. Through sharing their success stories, our students will gain more understanding about the spirit of entrepreneurship.</li> <li>• Speakers from other Departments of the Faculty are also invited to share with the students so as to broader perspective beyond their field of specialization.</li> <li>• The importance of learning to learn and lifelong learning are introduced to students through the workshops organized in collaboration with the supporting offices, such as Library and Student Affairs Office.</li> <li>• Designated academic staff at Assistant Professor level or above from different departments are invited as interviewees to participate in the "Interview a Professor" activity. They respond to the questions of interest from students and share the history and story of their respective department. This develop students' critical thinking skills, builds their recognition to the department and establishes a close relationship among teachers and students.</li> <li>• Small group projects to develop students' ability of innovative problem-solving ability and their understanding/application of theories in different disciplines.</li> <li>• Students will be informed to form groups in the first class. They have to come up with a grouping and a project title in week 4. They will need to search for materials and information and report to the supervisor progress of the project regularly. Supervisors will</li> </ul>

	<p>continuously monitor students' work. In week 11 – 13, each group will present their project and come up with a written report to demonstrate their leadership, teamwork and individual performance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Online Tutorial on Academic Integrity (OTAI) is provided to ensure students understand the principles and the importance of academic honesty before they proceed to complete the rest of their university study and learn ways to ensure that their work and behaviour at PolyU are acceptable in that regard. Students are required to complete the Tutorial not later than the end of week 5.</li> </ul>																																																						
<p><b>Assessment Methods in Alignment with Intended Learning Outcomes</b></p>	<p>Students' performance will be assessed by a letter-grading system. The following assessment methods will be adopted:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="518 741 1465 1375"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Specific assessment methods</th> <th rowspan="2">% weighting</th> <th colspan="5">Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed</th> </tr> <tr> <th>a</th> <th>b</th> <th>c</th> <th>d</th> <th>e</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. Project write-up</td> <td>30%</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Project presentation</td> <td>20%</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. Attendance</td> <td>8%</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4. Assignments on Professor/ Expert Seminar</td> <td>24%</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5. Interview Report</td> <td>18%</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>100%</td> <td colspan="5"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Explanation of the appropriateness of the assessment methods in assessing the intended learning outcomes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project write-up – A project write-up forms the most important part of the assessment for this subject. Students are required to design a science-based multidisciplinary project to critically examine and to suggest possible solutions to a daily life problem. The project will be assessed based on its creativity, demonstration of critical thinking and the viability of the proposed solutions. The required number of words for the project is 4,000 – 7,000 per group.</li> <li>Project presentation – Students are required to present their project. Assessment will be based on similar criteria as above. Students will fail the subject, regardless the grade attained in other components, if they do not participate in the presentation of their group project.</li> </ol> <p>Presentation session attendance – Students are required to assess other groups' project presentation and thus have to attend all group project</p>	Specific assessment methods	% weighting	Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed					a	b	c	d	e	1. Project write-up	30%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	2. Project presentation	20%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	3. Attendance	8%	✓	✓		✓	✓	4. Assignments on Professor/ Expert Seminar	24%	✓	✓		✓	✓	5. Interview Report	18%	✓	✓	✓			Total	100%					
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presentation. Students will fail the subject, regardless the grade attained in other components, if their attendance rate is lower than 70%. The exact number of presentation sessions they are required to attend will be announced at the beginning of the semester.

3. Assignments on Professor/ Expert Seminar – Student will submit a one-page summary essay or answer open-ended questions/MCQ based on each seminar they attended. Students will be assessed on their understanding of the content of the seminars. Students are also required to add their own opinions in the essays in order to show their problem-solving skills and critical thinking ability. Submission of assignment without attendance is not allowed.
4. Seminar attendance – Students are expected to attend all seminars. The attendance of those joined the class after the seminar started may not be counted. Students shall actively participate in the seminars by asking questions and interacting with the speakers.
5. Interview Report – Each student will be asked to write a summary report based on the group interview with a designated academic staff. Students will be assessed on their preparation of questions and report of the interview. Students are welcome to demonstrate their creativity in the design of the report. The required number of words for the report is 800 - 1,000.
6. The Online Tutorial on Academic Integrity (OTAI) can be accessed on LEARN@PolyU (理學網). It takes approximately two hours to complete. To successfully complete the Tutorial, students will attempt the Pre-test, read the four modules, obtain at least 75% in the post-test (multiple attempts allowed), and sign the Honour Declaration.
7. The OTAI is part of the subject completion requirement. Students who fail to complete the OTAI will fail this subject.

<b>Student Study Effort Expected</b>	Class contact:	
	▪ Lecture/Seminar/Workshop	24 Hrs.
	▪ Tutorial	9 Hrs.
	▪ Presentation	6 Hrs.
	Other student study effort:	
	▪ Preparation of the interview with Professor and the written report	18 Hrs.
	▪ Reading/writing/preparation of the project presentation and the write-up	46 Hrs.
	▪ Online Tutorial on Academic Integrity (OTAI)	2 Hrs.
	Total student study effort	105 Hrs.
<b>Reading List and References</b>	<p>References</p> <p>1. The Secrets of College Success/Lynn F. Jacobs, and Jeremy S. Hyman. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass (A Wiley Imprint), 2010.</p>	