

CENG 4020 / BIEN 4990 / ENEG 4990

ACADEMIC & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT II

THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, FALL 2025

COURSE SYLLABUS

INSTRUCTORS

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TEACHING ASSISTANT

To be confirmed

COURSE DESCRIPTION

CENG 4020 / BIEN 4990 / ENEG 4990 is a seminar course designed to prepare you for the workplace, to instill in you a sense of professional responsibility, and to enhance your career management skills. The course is intended for final-year students in CBE.

EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Formulate and execute a plan of what you would like to do after graduation, including but not limited to finding a job that is aligned with your values.
- Apply the concept of continuous improvement in managing your career and in pursuing lifelong learning.
- Be aware of pertinent trends and emerging opportunities in the practice of chemical and biological engineering.
- Appreciate and articulate the multi-dimensional complexity of real-world problems faced by chemical and biological engineers and develop a strong sense of professional responsibility as engineers.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

ATTENDANCE

We will meet every Monday, 12:00–1:20 pm in G010, CYT Bldg. For some weeks, BIEN students may meet separately in Rm 5506, and ENEG students may meet separately in Rm 5566. Please follow the announcements on Canvas.

This course involves **active participation** on your part, including interacting with speakers and discussions with your fellow students.

To pass the course, you are required to attend ALL sessions in person on time (late arrival or early departure will be counted as absent), unless otherwise stated.

Excused absence: If you have good justifications for missing a session, please seek approval by emailing the TA (with documented proof) before the session, unless it is an unforeseen emergency, in which case the notification can come after the session.

PREPARATION FOR CLASS

Background reading materials and/or multimedia resources will be posted on the course Canvas site.

HOMEWORK

Several homework assignments are mandatory for students to pass the course. These include a professional CV, a cover letter or personal statement (for job or graduate school application), a LinkedIn page, and research on potential employers.

DEBATES (FOR BIEN STUDENTS ONLY)

There will be several debates on professional ethics related to bioengineering, towards the end of the semester. In teams of 3–4, students are required to participate in competitive debates with prizes for the winners. Some reading materials will be provided beforehand. Students in CENG4020 and ENEG 4990 are welcome to participate but it is optional.

CAREER COUNSELING AND MOCK INTERVIEWS (OPTIONAL)

To prepare students for the workplace, there will be opportunities for interested students to meet with career counselors and practice their interview skills in mock interview sessions. They will be individually scheduled outside of class time.

GRADING POLICY

The course is graded Pass/Fail. To pass the course, you must:

1. Attend **all** sessions **in person**, unless allowance for an excused absence is granted.
2. Complete all homework assignments.
3. (BIEN students only) Participate conscientiously in the debate as a team member.
4. Follow academic integrity rules: <https://ugadmin.ust.hk/integrity/regulations-1.html>.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

This is subject to revision throughout the semester. Updated schedules will be announced and posted on the course website.

Date	Topics	Assignment
1/9	Course overview and career management	
8/9	Postgraduate studies	
15/9	Faculty research sharing (1)	
22/9	Guest speaker from industry (1)	
29/9	Entrepreneurship sharing	
6/10	Faculty research sharing (2)	
13/10	Guest speaker from industry (2)	Research on potential employers
20/10	CV and cover letter workshop	
27/10	Guest speaker from industry (3)	CV/cover letter, LinkedIn profile
3/11	Interview workshop (1)	
10/11	Interview workshop (2)	
17/11	Debates (BIEN4990 only)	Preparation for debates
24/11	Debates (BIEN4990 only)	