



# DNA of English for Postgraduate Students

Instructor:  
Mr. Philip Yeung

**Philip Yeung**, currently an academic consultant at the University of Macau, was educated at the University of Toronto, and briefly attended Exeter College, Oxford University in its International Graduate Summer Program on English History and Literature on a scholarship. He was for seven years the speechwriter to the President of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. He is also a ghostwriter for many Hong Kong leaders and celebrities.

Mr. Yeung eats and drinks English. He believes that the traditional grammar-dominant rote learning approach has failed. Instead, he gives students the tools for expression, rather than overwhelm them with rules, teaching them to “dance with the alphabet”. Unlike a typical classroom teacher, he teaches English from the perspective of a writer, focused squarely on the “impact” of words. He coins the term “the **DNA of English**” to help students simplify the complexity of this vital global language, describing his teaching method as “**Teaching English Upside Down**”. He tells students magical things about English they have never heard before.

## SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Seminar	Class Time	Date of Seminars
1	17:00p.m. – 18:30p.m.	14 Sep, 2016 (Wed)
2	17:00p.m. – 18:30p.m.	28 Sep, 2016 (Wed)
3	17:00p.m. – 18:30p.m.	12 Oct, 2016 (Wed)
4	17:00p.m. – 18:30p.m.	26 Oct, 2016 (Wed)
5	17:00p.m. – 18:30p.m.	16 Nov, 2016 (Wed)
6	17:00p.m. – 18:30p.m.	30 Nov, 2016 (Wed)
7	17:00p.m. – 18:30p.m.	15 Feb, 2017 (Wed)
8	17:00p.m. – 18:30p.m.	1 Mar, 2017 (Wed)
9	17:00p.m. – 18:30p.m.	15 Mar, 2017 (Wed)
10	17:00p.m. – 18:30p.m.	29 Mar, 2017 (Wed)
11	17:00p.m. – 18:30p.m.	12 Apr, 2017 (Wed)
12	17:00p.m. – 18:30p.m.	26 Apr, 2017 (Wed)

## SEMINAR TOPICS

- Inaugural Lecture:
  - Introduction of the instructor and the series by VRAA
  - The DNA of English and how to teach Chinese English—a radical change in teaching and learning
- Academic English—what is the essence of good academic writing?
- Dancing with the alphabet—the eight parts of speech—the source for creative writing
- What is authentic English? How do you write for lay readers?
- The error of our ways—the 7 sins of writing typical of Chinese learners—no more Chinglish
- The unique features of English we neglect. The linguistic differences between English and Chinese and the problems they pose for Chinese learners
- The essential ingredients of readable writing—clarity, variety, coherence, subtlety and surprise—and how to look for them within the English language
- Other characteristics of English—why the weird word order; the idea of ellipsis in English—English as a stress-timed language and salience in English
- The art of translating Chinese into English—the pitfalls to avoid
- Learning from the prose masters of the West—a list of recommended reading for further study
- How to enrich your learning from living—sports writing and commentary, poetry, TV drama, the best talk shows for language lovers. Even obituaries—great writing in summing up a life
- Finding your own voice in writing—the ultimate achievement

Open to all postgraduate students, the program will consist of a series of 12 seminars spread over an entire academic year: six in the fall term, and six in the spring term. These seminars will diagnose the inherent weakness in the traditional approach of teaching Chinese English, and prescribe a cure, giving students insights into what constitutes authentic English, enabling them to engage the reader with clarity and creativity in written expressions.

Ideally, the program will build up its **own mini reference library** of exemplary writing and reading material, so that students can be inspired by true prose masters on both sides of the Atlantic.

In short, the program will change the way students look at, live, learn and use English, while attracting the support of the business community, making our postgraduates the sought-after candidates in the business and wider world.

**Registration Period: 22 Aug – 7 Sep, 2016**

Online registration will open on 22 Aug, 2016 via the Graduate School Website.

Stay tuned!



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