



Course:	Academic Writing
Level:	B2 minimum / C1-2 recommended
Timetable:	2 hours a week (30 hours)
Academic year:	2015/2016
Semester(s):	2nd
Professor (s):	Bernardo Manzoni Palmeirim

Learning objectives:

The main aim of this course is for students to develop their academic writing skills. By the end of the course, students should have earned the necessary assurance to produce academic texts that promote readability, and to organise their arguments in a clear and coherent manner. In order to do so, they will have to acquire relevant vocabulary and grammatical structures through a series of written exercises.

Content:

This course is aimed at graduate students, postgraduate students, and researchers who are not native English speakers but have a sufficient level of English to write a research paper and/or a dissertation. We shall focus on essay writing (as a manageable unit for class work), sentence and paragraph structure, and relevant grammar problems; as well as vocabulary and writing methods specific to the academic field.

We shall cover the following topics, although how much we focus on each may vary in accordance to students' overall needs and learning speeds:

- Paragraph structure and topic sentences
- Essay writing
 - Process essays
 - Cause/Effect essays
 - Comparison/Contrast essays
 - Argumentative essays
- Paraphrasing and summarising
- Quotation
- Readability
- Fixing sentence problems

Grammar

- Punctuation
 - Parallel structure
 - Run-ons and comma splices
- Word order
- Linking sentences and paragraphs
- Compound sentences and coordinators
- Removing redundancy

Vocabulary

- How to organise your writing
- Presenting an argument
- Research and study aims
- Key academic nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs
- Phrasal verbs in academic English
- Prepositional phrases
- Adjective and noun combinations

Bibliography:

Material will be indicated at the beginning of the course and made available via e-mail/Moodle. Students are required to check on a regular basis, and come to class prepared.

Oshima, Alice, and Ann Hogue. *Writing Academic English*. 4th ed. White Plains, NY: Pearson/Longman, 2006. Longman Academic Writing Series, Level 4. ISBN: 0131523597

Wallwork, Adrian. *English for Academic Research: Writing Exercises*. New York: Springer, 2013. ISBN: 978-1-4614-4297-4

McCarthy, Michael, and Felicity O'Dell. *Academic Vocabulary in Use*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2008. ISBN: 978-0-521-68939-7

Assessment criteria:

Students will have to complete a series of different exercises and writing tasks. Assessment will be based on selected written exercises and active participation in class. Moreover, there will be a test at the end of the course. Students are expected to attend all classes, and do self-study homework as requested.

Admission requirements to the course:

Students must be at (or preferably above) B2 level to attend this course, which has an upper-intermediate/advanced level of difficulty.