

Technical and Scientific English Writing

Course 11120LANG500008

Professor: George Wang (wangbo928@gmail.com)

Class hours: Wednesday 10:10 - 13:00

Core competency indicators

- * The ability to communicate and express oneself in English (25%)
- * The ability to think critically and organize ideas logically in English (25%)
- * Having the knowledge of English learning strategies and techniques (30%)
- * The ability to use existing English learning resources and to develop an independent self-learning habit (20%)

Course Description

This course aims at providing graduate students with the essential skills in academic and business written communications. Specific strategies for composing and revising texts will be introduced to guide students in writing for different academic purposes and audiences. Along with lectures and class discussion, various individual and collaborative tasks will be incorporated in class to better prepare the students with hands-on practices and greater metacognitive awareness of writing processes.

Course Objectives

1. To increase students' awareness of academic expectations and performance requirements of writing styles and formats.
2. To develop reading skills and strategies for scholarly articles, including developing academic vocabulary, recognizing the structure of different types of texts, and analyzing components of texts to understand how arguments/claims are made and supported, and
3. To develop writing skills for logical development and clarity of thought, including improving grammatical and mechanical control, practicing constructive peer editing, and self-correction techniques.

Course Requirements

1. Actively participate in all class activities.
2. Complete and submit all written and non-written tasks on time.
3. Leave request must be sent to BOTH the lecturer with a clear explanation of the reason via email before the absence date.

Required Textbook and references

John Swales and Christine Feak: Academic Writing for Graduate Students: Essential Tasks and Skills. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, ISBN-10: 9780472034758

Grading

- Attendance (12%)
Definition of absence:
 1. Late for more than 20 minutes
 2. Three absence without a valid excuse is considered as course failure
 3. Valid absence is defined as an absence with proof or evidence, and it should not exceed twice during the semester
- Interactive Class Exercises (40%)
You are required to participate in many class exercises throughout the semester. Not all exercises will be graded.
- Writing assignments (48%)
You will be given up to 6 writing assignments. The details of the assignment will be announced in class.

- Tentative Course Schedule

	Date	Course content	Assignments
1	02/15	Orientation Unit 1: An Approach to Academic Writing	
2	02/22	Unit 1: An Approach to Academic Writing	
3	03/01	Unit 2: General-Specific Texts and Review	
4	03/08	Unit 2: General-Specific text and review	
5	03/15	Unit 3: Problem, Process, and Solution	
6	03/22	Unit 3: Problem, Process, and Solution	Assignment 1
7	03/29	Unit 4: Data Commentary	
8	04/05	Tomb Sweeping Festival (no class)	
9	04/12	Unit 4: Data Commentary	Assignment 2
10	04/19	Unit 5: Writing Summaries	

	Date	Course content	Assignments
11	04/26	Unit 5: Writing Summaries	
12	05/03	Unit 6: Writing Critiques	Assignment 3
13	05/10	Unit 6: Writing Critiques	
14	05/17	Unit 7: Constructing a Research Paper	
15	05/24	Unit 7: Constructing a Research Paper	
16	05/31	Unit 8: Constructing a Research Paper	Assignment 4
17	06/07	Unit 8 Constructing a Research Paper	
18	06/14	Paper Presentation	