

ARTS1013

Academic Writing and Critical Reading

6 credits - total 48 contact hours; 120 learning hours

(1 class group)

Number of students: 25 max. (undergraduates from overseas/Mainland universities)

July 15 – August 2, 2019

Mon to Fri, 10am-1pm

Course Description

This is an advanced academic writing skills course that aims to enhance students' writing abilities in academic contexts. Students are exposed to a number of scholarly texts on selected topics, and analyze these texts through critical reading and discussions in class. Students are then required to respond to these readings to write well-structured and stylistically appropriate academic papers. Students will receive focused advice and constructive feedback from both their peers and teachers on how to improve their writing skills.

Aims and Objectives

- Engage students in critical reading and discussions in English on selected topics in academic contexts regarding the Arts and Humanities
- Develop students' academic writing abilities including structuring, paragraph presentation, logical argumentation and audience awareness.
- Raise students' awareness of the conventions of academic English including referencing and avoiding plagiarism.

List of Topics (that may be covered in class)

- Analysing an assignment topic
- Reading widely and critically
- Reading strategies
- Taking notes effectively
- Paraphrasing and synthesizing
- Expressing a stance
- Using counter-argument and rebuttal
- Hedging and boosting
- Writing in an academic style
- Writing a cohesive and logical paragraph
- Introductions and conclusions
- Citations, referencing and avoiding plagiarism
- The writing process
- Identifying features of a successful academic essay or report

The course will be highly interactive and will require a high level of participation from students in and out of class. It will include the following types of activities:

- Close reading of scholarly texts
- Pair, group and whole class discussion on reading texts
- Analysis of successful model texts
- In-class and outside writing practices
- Peer review of written work
- Reflection on learning

Please note the topics and teaching resources may vary and are provided here as a guide only. We recommend you to bring your laptop to class for some interactive activities.

Assessment

- 1) Essay or report written with peer and teacher feedback 40%: 800-1,000 words
- 2) Independently written essay or report 40%: 800-1,000 words
- 3) Reflective annotations on assignments 20%

Course Materials

Textbook

Legg, M., et al. (2017). *Academic English: Skills for Success*. HKU Press. **Revised Second Edition**. HK\$180.

You will need to bring your textbook to every lesson. You need to purchase the book from the HKU Bookstore in Chi Wah Learning Commons before the start of the course.