



Nanchang University ENG 26: Academic Writing

Credit: 4

Contact Hours

This course is composed of 24 lecture sessions, 3 tutorial sessions and 9 office contact hours. Each lecture session takes 2 contact hours in length; each tutorial session takes 3 contact hours in length; There will be a Q-A review session(3 contact hours) and Final Exam (3 contact hours) at the end of this term. This course has 72 contact hours in total.

Course Description

This course depicts the writing strategies for academic paper. Students will get the tactics to organize sentence structure and paragraph. They will learn how to search reference to sources and form a mindset to develop textual structure, coherence, argument and critical thinking. Meanwhile, academic and scientific conventions will also be taught.

Textbook

Academic Writing for International Students of Science by Jane Bottomley

Publisher: Routledge

Publication Date: 2014

Note: Some required readings will be recommended during this course learning.

Grading

- Participation 10%
- 5 Essays 40%
- Midterm Exam 20%
- Final Exam 30%

A+ 96-100	A 90-95	A- 85-89
B+ 82-84	B 78-81	B- 75-77
C+ 71-74	C 66-70	C- 62-65
D 60-61	F < 60	

Assignment



Format: Your writing should be written in a 12 point font and double spaced.

Late assignment would NOT be accepted.

Course Schedule

The course has 24 class sessions in total. All sessions are 2 contact hours in length. At the end of this term, there will be a Q-A review session(3 contact hours) and Final Exam (3 contact hours).

Note: the course outline and required readings are subject to change.

Class 1:

Introduction Chapter

Reading: Chapter 1

Class 2:

Writing to Develop and Communicate Thinking

Reflecting on Your Current Approach to Writing; Preparing to Write

Reading: Chapter 2 The Writing Process

Class 3:

Putting down Words on the Page

The Importance of Redrafting; Focus on Proofreading

Reading: Chapter 2 The Writing Process

Class 4:

Clarity

Reading: Chapter 3 Academic Scientific Style

Essay 1

Class 5:

Sentence Length and Text Organization; Being Concise

Reading: Chapter 3 Academic Scientific Style

Class 6:

Being Precise; Language and Conventions

What is Academic Scientific Writing?; Common Features of Academic Scientific Texts

Reading: Chapter 3 Academic Scientific Style

Class 7:

Subject +Verb Structures; Sentence Types

Essay 2

Class 8:

Forming Simple Sentences; Compound and Complex Sentences



Forming Compound Sentences

Reading: Chapter 4 Sentence Structure 1

Class 9:

Forming Complex Sentences with Subordinating Conjunctions

Other Complex Sentences; Participle Clauses

Reading: Chapter 4 Sentence Structure 1

Class 10:

Infinitive Clause of Purpose

that-clauses; Focus on Relative Clauses

Reading: Chapter 4 Sentence Structure 1

Class 11:

Combing Ideas

Reading: Chapter 5 Sentence Structure 2

Essay 3

Class 12:

Prepositional Phrases; Sentence Connectors

Controlling Syntax; Focus on Punctuation

Lists and Parallel Structures

Reading: Chapter 5 Sentence Structure 2

Class 13:

Information Structure

Given Versus New Information; General Versus Specific Information

Cohesive Devices; Focus on Punctuation

Reading: Chapter 6 Paragraph Development: Achieving Flow

Class 14:

Midterm Exam

Class 15:

Using Your Own Words

The Issue of Plagiarism

Good Reasons to Use Your Own Words; Good Reasons not to Use your Own words.

Reading: Chapter 7 Referring to Sources: Paraphrase, Referencing, Criticality and the Issue of Plagiarism

Class 16:

Adopting Good Academic Practice: Referencing and Criticality



Strategies for Paraphrase and Summary; Synthesising Information from Multiple Sources

Reading: Chapter 7 Referring to Sources: Paraphrase, Referencing, Criticality and the Issue of Plagiarism

Class 17:

Using your Reading to Build a Bank of Common Structures and Phrases

Reading: Chapter 7 Referring to Sources: Paraphrase, Referencing, Criticality and the Issue of Plagiarism

Essay 4

Class 18:

Structure and Coherence

Focus on Introductions and Conclusions; Describing Methodology

Reading: Chapter 8 Textual Development: Structure, Coherence, Argument and Critical Thinking

Class 19:

Describing and Discussing Results

Maintaining Coherence

Building an Argument

Reading: Chapter 8 Textual Development: Structure, Coherence, Argument and Critical Thinking

Class 20:

Focus on Defining Terminology

Reading: Chapter 8 Textual Development: Structure, Coherence, Argument and Critical Thinking

Essay 5

Class 21:

Referencing Conventions; Incorporating Quotation

Tables and Figures; Equations

Reading: Chapter 9 Academic and Scientific Conventions

Class 22:

Units of Measurement; Acronyms and Abbreviations

Bullet Point and Numbered Lists

UK versus US Spelling; Formatting and Presentation

Reading: Chapter 9 Academic and Scientific Conventions

Class 23:

UK versus US Spelling

Formatting and Presentation

Class 24:

Reading: Chapter 9 Academic and Scientific Conventions



Attending Policy

Regular and prompt attendance is required. Under ordinary circumstances, you may miss two times without penalty. Each absence over this number will lower your course grade by a third of a letter and missing more than five classes may lead to a failing grade in the course. Arriving late and/or leaving before the end of the class period are equivalent to absences.

Policy on "Late Withdrawals"

In accordance with university policy, appeals for late withdrawal will be approved **ONLY** in case of medical emergency and similar crises.

Academic Honesty

Nanchang University expects all students to do their own work. Instructors will fail assignments that show evidence of plagiarism or other forms of cheating, and will also report the student's name to the University administration. A student reported to the University for cheating is placed on disciplinary probation; a student reported twice is suspended or expelled.

General Expectations:

Students are expected to:

- Attend all classes and be responsible for all materials covered in class and otherwise assigned;
- Complete the day's required reading and assignments before class;
- Review the previous day's notes before class and make notes about questions you have about the previous class or the day's reading;
- Participate in class discussions and complete required written work on time;
- Refrain from texting, phoning or engaging in computer activities unrelated to class during the class period;
- While class participation is welcome, even required, you are expected to refrain from private conversations during the class period.

Special Needs or Assistance

Please contact the Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material. Our goal is to help you learn, not to penalize you for issues which mask your learning.