

ARTS1013

Academic Writing and Critical Reading

6 credits - total 48 contact hours

Session C: July 16 – August 3, 2018

Mon to Fri, 10:00 to 13:00

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 will 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.)

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%