

Syllabus

Course Description

Course Title	Introduction to academic writing
Course Code	27218
Course Title Additional	
Scientific-Disciplinary Sector	NN
Language	English
Degree Course	Bachelor in Economics, Politics and Ethics
Other Degree Courses (Loaned)	
Lecturers	Prof. Richard Lang, Richard.Lang@unibz.it https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/economics-management/academic-staff/person/49242
Teaching Assistant	Dott. Yasser Basstawy El Sayed
Semester	First semester
Course Year/s	2
CP	3
Teaching Hours	36
Lab Hours	-
Individual Study Hours	-
Planned Office Hours	18
Contents Summary	The course is designed to enable students to acquire academic writing skills. The specific educational objectives are: - to introduce students to the “what, when, where” of academic writing - to introduce students to the essential elements of academic writing (argument and discussion, cause and effect, comparison, visual information...) - to introduce students to the basic structure of different types of academic writings (report, thesis, dissertation, academic paper etc.) - to apply these skills to report and critique conflicting arguments,

	to present convincing arguments with supporting reasons and exemplification, and to present key information given in a text in a coherent summary; - to provide students with the ability to progress to a wider range of written academic assignments.
Course Topics	- Characteristics, purposes and contexts of academic writing - Types of academic texts and main sections of an academic paper, including the Bachelor's thesis - The academic writing process - Defining the scope, formulating a research question and specifying objectives of an academic text - Finding and critically evaluating academic literature - The title and abstract: purpose, structure and types - The introduction section: establishing the topic, explaining relevance, research questions and objectives - Integrating literature into the introduction and developing a coherent argument - Middle sections: methods, results and discussion - The use of headings in middle sections - Basic principles of research design as a basis for writing a methods section - Presenting and discussing findings, relating them to research question and acknowledging limitations - Using headings, illustrations, tables and appendices - Conclusions: structure, synthesis and implications - References: citation styles, in-text citations and reference lists - Summarising, paraphrasing, quoting and combining sources - Academic writing style: sentence structure, punctuation, vocabulary and register - Organising paragraphs and creating coherence between sections - Academic integrity and plagiarism: recognising and avoiding inappropriate use of sources - Rewriting and proofreading; giving and using feedback
Keywords	Academic writing, structure of academic papers, research questions and research design, citation styles and referencing, academic integrity
Recommended Prerequisites	None
Propaedeutic Courses	None

Teaching Format	Frontal teaching, in-class exercises and discussions, writing simulations
Mandatory Attendance	Due to applicability of the contents to various academic contexts and needs for students (essay, thesis, papers, Master application, etc.), the attendance is strongly suggested.
Specific Educational Objectives and Learning Outcomes	ILO (Intended Learning Outcomes) ILO 1 Ability to apply knowledge and understanding: ILO 1.1 Ability to produce texts on topics of scientific interest; ILO 2 Communication skills: ILO 2.1 Proficiency (oral and written) in Italian, German and English, including translation between these languages. Intercultural competence. Conceptual awareness, synthesis and written expression, in particular in the drafting of scientific or science-based documents
Specific Educational Objectives and Learning Outcomes (additional info.)	- Students will have an understanding of the basic principles of academic writing, especially for Bachelor's thesis writing. - Students will have the ability to formulate a focused research question, selecting suitable academic sources and integrating them into a coherent academic text. - Students will be able to demonstrate an introductory understanding of the relationship between research questions, research design and the written presentation of research.
Assessment	For attending students: 1. Individual written examination (60%). The course is assessed through an individual written examination at the end of the course. It covers course content and required materials through practical academic writing tasks and knowledge questions. This assessment addresses ILO 1.1, i.e. the ability to write on scientific topics, and academic communication aspects of ILO 2.1. 2. Individual and group coursework (40%). Students complete a sequence of connected tasks during the course, including preparatory work, written submissions, and presentation and discussion of their work in class. These tasks guide students through selected stages of developing an academic text.

	Assessment is based on the quality of submitted work and identifiable individual contributions to presentations and task-related discussions. This assessment addresses the students' scientific writing ability ILO 1.1, and the written and oral communication aspects of ILO 2.1. For non-attending students: Students must contact the lecturer within the first two weeks of the course to arrange the non-attending assessment route. 1. Individual written examination (70%). The course is assessed through an individual written examination at the end of the course. It covers course content and required materials through practical academic writing tasks and knowledge questions. This assessment addresses ILO 1.1, i.e. the ability to write on scientific topics, and academic communication aspects of ILO 2.1. 2. Individual written assignment (30%). Students independently complete an equivalent set of tasks addressing the same learning objectives as the coursework for attending students. The tasks are brought together and revised into one coherent written paper. Task instructions and required materials are provided through the course's Teams channel. This assessment addresses the students' scientific writing ability ILO 1.1, and the written communication aspects of ILO 2.1.
Evaluation Criteria	The written examination and assignment as well as the coursework are evaluated according to: - accuracy and relevance of content and demonstrated understanding of course concepts; - clarity of the research question, objectives and argument; - coherence of the structure and connections between different parts of the text; - appropriate selection, critical use and integration of academic sources; - accuracy of referencing and adherence to academic integrity; - clarity and accuracy of writing, including grammar, vocabulary and academic register; - compliance with task instructions and formatting requirements.

	For presentations and task-related discussions, the clarity and relevance of individual contributions and the ability to explain and justify choices are also considered. Knowledge questions are primarily assessed for content accuracy and understanding.
Required Readings	Course materials available in the course's Teams channel
Supplementary Readings	Bailey, S. (2018). <i>Academic Writing: A Handbook for International Students</i> (5th ed.). Routledge.
Further Information	- none
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Gender equality, Quality education