

Syllabus

Course Description

Course Title	Seminar 2: Academic Writing
Course Code	47222
Course Title Additional	
Scientific-Disciplinary Sector	NN
Language	English
Degree Course	Master in Critical Creative Practices
Other Degree Courses (Loaned)	
Lecturers	dr. Simona Floare Bora, SimonaFloare.Bora@unibz.it https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/education/academic-staff/person/47309
Teaching Assistant	
Semester	Second semester
Course Year/s	1st - 2nd year
CP	2
Teaching Hours	18
Lab Hours	0
Individual Study Hours	0
Planned Office Hours	6
Contents Summary	This seminar, designed to support students in the preparation of their final degree projects, provides advanced training in academic English, with particular emphasis on the specialised language and discourse practices of the design and art sectors. Intended for students with a minimum proficiency level of B2, it aims to further develop writing, reading, critical thinking and oral communication skills within both academic and professional contexts. The course places strong emphasis on the conventions of academic writing, including argumentation, structure, clarity and the appropriate use of sources. Through the analysis of discipline-specific texts and guided writing practice, students will acquire the skills necessary to

	produce coherent and well-structured academic work.
Course Topics	<p>The final list of topics and text types will depend on the specific needs and requirements of the enrolled students, but the core topics will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - structure and organisation of a range of academic texts in the discipline - reading and analysing discipline-specific academic texts with attention to rhetorical structure, argumentation and disciplinary conventions - audience, purpose and style; academic vocabulary; formal register; personal and impersonal style - specific academic writing skills, including description, comparison, problem-solution, cause-effect, and process - academic argumentation: developing claims, supporting arguments with evidence and critical discussion - paragraph structure, cohesion and coherence; effective use of linking devices - techniques for paraphrasing and summarising - using sources appropriately: reporting verbs, hedging, in-text citations, reference list - the writing process: planning, drafting, revising, editing and proofreading - discussing academic work in English, including giving constructive peer feedback and participating in academic discourse - Free University of Bozen-Bolzano Guidelines for the ethically-informed use of artificial intelligence tools <p>https://records.unibz.it/regolamenti?prog=1/25&viewdoc=1</p>
Keywords	academic discourse, critical thinking, academic writing, register, style, argumentation, sources, final degree projects.
Recommended Prerequisites	
Propaedeutic Courses	
Teaching Format	Lecture, discussion, workshop, individual writing tasks, pair work and group work.
Mandatory Attendance	compulsory attendance for at least 75% of lessons.
Specific Educational Objectives and Learning Outcomes	<p>Making judgements</p> <p>Apply the knowledge acquired in the professional context.</p>
Specific Educational	Making judgements

<p>Objectives and Learning Outcomes (additional info.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - critically evaluate and interpret academic and professional texts in the fields of design and art - formulate well-reasoned arguments in English - make informed judgements regarding the structure, clarity and effectiveness of academic texts - analyse written academic discourse, evaluate its linguistic and stylistic features, and select and use these features in a variety of formal written texts - make informed decisions about appropriate lexis and grammar when producing academic texts - assess the relevance and reliability of sources <p>Apply the knowledge acquired in the professional context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - apply advanced academic English skills in professional and research-oriented contexts - produce clear, coherent and well-structured written and oral communication - prepare research proposals, reports and other professional documents - use discipline-specific language appropriately in collaborative, academic and professional environments <p>By the end of the module, students will be better able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - analyse and apply the structures and conventions of academic texts in their discipline, including effective planning, drafting, and organisation - communicate complex ideas effectively in spoken and written academic English, using appropriate discipline-specific terminology, register and style - paraphrase and summarise sources, and use appropriate devices to achieve coherence and cohesion - recognise and apply typical sentence and paragraph structures in academic writing - use English for a range of functions, including describing, defining, comparing, arguing, persuading, and understand how these are realised linguistically for formal communication in academic contexts. - apply conventions related to referencing and citation styles - critically read, analyse and evaluate discipline-specific academic texts in the fields of design and art
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - engage constructively in academic discussions and peer feedback within interdisciplinary and professional contexts - understand and adhere to the ethical use of AI tools as stated in the Unibz guidelines: https://records.unibz.it/regolamenti?prog=1/25&viewdoc=1
Assessment	<p>Formative: portfolio of tasks completed throughout the course.</p> <p>Summative: final written examination assessing the production of short written tasks based on writing prompts completed under timed conditions, and drawing on subject-specific input and the specific requirements of the Master's programme.</p>
Evaluation Criteria	<p>Formative: adequate completion of tasks carried out during the course; evidence of critical reflection and skills progress across the portfolio will also be taken into account.</p> <p>Summative: an assessment rubric will be provided identifying specific criteria to evaluate students' writing competence, including task achievement; content/ideas; textual organisation and structure; formality of text; use of English; accuracy of grammar and lexis; and punctuation.</p> <p>Further details for this module will be provided during the course and online on the OLE.</p>
Required Readings	<p>Materials will be provided during the course, according to students' needs. Students may want to consult the titles in the 'supplementary readings' below.</p>
Supplementary Readings	<p>Bailey, S. (2025). <i>Academic Writing: A Handbook for International Students</i> (5th ed.). Routledge.</p> <p>Clark, S. & Pinton, G. (2016). <i>The Routledge Student Guide to English Usage: A Guide to Academic Writing for Students</i>. Routledge.</p> <p>Folse, K., Gordon, D., & Smith-Palinkas, B. (2017). <i>Grammar for Great Writing</i>. National Geographic Learning.</p> <p>Gillett, A., Hammond, A., & Martala, M. (2009). <i>Successful Academic Writing</i>. Pearson.</p> <p>McCarthy, M. & O'Dell, F. (2017) <i>English Vocabulary in Use</i>. Cambridge University Press.</p> <p>Turabian, K. (2018). <i>A Manual for Writers</i>. University of Chicago</p>

	Press.
Further Information	Lecture slides, online resources, examination assessment criteria, and a set of tasks for the portfolio will be made available to students via the OLE platform.
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Quality education, Responsible consumption and production, Reduced inequalities, Gender equality