

Name of Course: Academic Writing for Doctoral Students (Group 70)

Department/Program: Humanities and Arts

Semester: Spring 2024, תשפ"ד

Course Number: 00328050

Instructor:

Dr. Sharon Shenhav

Email: sh.sharon@technion.ac.il

Office Hours: By appointment

Time and Place of the Course:

Thursdays, 14:30-16:30

Building Ullman, Room 708

Goals of the Course:

The **primary goal** of this academic writing course is to equip students with the skills and techniques required to communicate science research clearly and accurately. The focus will be on the types of scientific professional writing found in journals and conference papers. Special emphasis will be placed on an analysis of the structure and content of academic articles. Various rhetorical techniques such as classification, comparison and contrast, description, summary writing, etc., will be covered. In addition, English syntax and grammatical difficulties particular to the non-native speaker will be drilled. The basics of formal English letter writing will also be addressed.

The course is based on the concept that writing is a complex cognitive process and that the way to improve one's writing is through continuous practice and repetition. Therefore, the curriculum attempts to afford the student with as many opportunities as possible to engage in "academic"-type writing exercises within the limited time frame of the course.

Structure of the Course:

The sections meet once a week for a **two academic-hour** lesson, comprising lectures, exercises, and workshop-style activities. The first lesson of the course has a compulsory pre-test.

In addition, students will meet with the instructor during the semester in a **1:1 session** to review their individual writing samples; for example, an assignment from the course or a professional work-in-progress document. Sessions will be set at a time convenient to both the instructor and the student.

Course Requirements:

In order to improve the ability to express oneself in a foreign language, practice and drill are crucial. Within the short time frame of this course, this will be facilitated through a variety of assignments, completed either in class or as homework. Homework will be assigned at each lesson, and all homework assignments are compulsory. **Four compulsory writing tasks** (to be handed in via Moodle) **and one presentation** will be assigned.

Attendance is compulsory. If the need to miss a class arises (e.g., illness, unforeseen circumstances, reserve duty, conference), **you are expected to make up missed lessons in another group – this must be coordinated with the instructor.** Lateness (beyond once or twice) will be marked as ABSENT.

Compulsory tasks	Comments
Pre-Test (in-class)	Completed in-class during Week 1. The purpose is for students to receive feedback from the instructor about how they write at the start of the course: e.g., what you do well, what you need to improve.
Weekly Classwork/Homework	These will appear in the workbook/shared files and will be completed as classwork or homework. Examples include exercises focused on flow, summary, wordiness, emails, etc., and may be spot-checked or peer-reviewed.
1:1 Meeting with Instructor	Attend one 1-on-1 session with the instructor to review a writing sample (<i>advanced sign-up on Moodle is required</i>).
Introduction Task	Due Lesson #6.
Results Task	Due Lesson #10.
Post-Test (in-class)	Completed in-class during Lesson #11.
Presentation	Completed in-class during Lesson #11 and 12 (<i>advanced sign-up on Moodle is required</i>).

Course Materials

1. A downloaded copy “The Academic Writing Course Workbook” (available on Moodle).
2. A recent, example article from an academic journal in your field.

Credit

This course is a pass/0 course. This means that students who have completed all the requirements of the course, including the 1-1 session with the instructor, will be reported to the Graduate School as having passed. Students not fulfilling all the course requirements will not have their names reported at all; *i.e.*, the Graduate School will have no record that they attended the course. The computer is updated with the names of those students who have passed approximately two weeks after the end of each semester.

Lesson #	Syllabus for the 12-week semester
#1 30-5-2024	Introduction to course goals and syllabus overview Elevator pitch workshop Pre-test – compulsory task** (in-class; to be submitted via Moodle)
#2 06-06-2024	Audience Parts of speech Sentence structure
#3 20-06-2024 Note: there will be no class on 13-06-2024.	Plagiarism & summary writing
#4 01-07-2024 No class on 27-06-2024. Note: This is a MONDAY (but following a “Technion Thursday” schedule. 2 sessions this week.	Summary writing (continued) Rhetorical moves: Introduction section - compulsory task** (to be submitted via Moodle by Session #6)
#5 04-07-2024	Reducing wordiness Flow
#6 11-07-2024	Methods section // Verb tenses* // Intro peer review Intro Task Due!
#7 18-07-2024	Rhetorical moves: Results section – compulsory task** (to be submitted via Moodle by Session #10)
#8 25-07-2024	Rhetorical moves: Discussion section // Abstracts // Titles Parallel structure and dangling modifiers* Nouns/noun compounds*
#9 01-08-2024	Presentations (discussing in-class assignment for Weeks 11 + 12) Overview of conference presentations
#10 08-08-2024	Professional communication (emails, CV, cover letters) Research in the media (blogs, headlines) Results Task Due!
#11 15-08-2024	Presentations (in-person) – compulsory task – sign up on Moodle Post-task - compulsory task** (in-class; to be submitted via Moodle)
#12 22-08-2024	Presentations (in-person) – compulsory task – sign up on Moodle Reflection

Note: Syllabus may be subject to change.

* Suggested topics/options for self-study if we run out of time.

** 4 compulsory hand-in tasks (via Moodle).