

Course Description

Objective of the course :

As a follow up to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd semesters writing courses, this course aims at a) developing and consolidating the sub-skills involved in writing, as well as the students' acquisition of **application, analysis, synthesis and evaluation** as procedures applied in writing, and b) introducing the students to the basics of research paper writing.

1. Application

Through intensive practice of the items introduced, the course aims to developing the students' ability to apply the knowledge and skills acquired in various contexts of composition and essay writing.

2. Analysis and synthesis

The second objective of the course is to reinforce the students' ability to organise information and ideas into meaningful, coherent and convincing pieces of writing.

Analysis involves being able to understand relationships between various elements of a whole, using procedures such as listing, distinguishing between main and supporting ideas, and recognising the general structure of a piece of written discourse.

Synthesis, on the other hand, refers to the student's ability to combine together parts in order to form a coherent whole. Instances of application of this skill are summarising, outlining, abstracting, introducing and concluding.

3. Evaluation

As the main focus of the course is on argumentative and research paper writing, its ultimate aim is to develop the students' ability to make judgements about the value of ideas and concepts. This should enable them to critically assess a statement, a theory, a concept, an idea or an attitude, using such procedures as comparing and contrasting, listing and argumentation.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of the course, students should be able to :

- Analyse and evaluate paragraphs and essays
- Summarise and paraphrase texts
- Write outlines for their essays
- Write argumentative essays
- Understand the meaning of research, its purposes and types
- Choose a research topic, outline it and gather data for the literature review

Course Content:

Analysing 1- Paragraph analysis

Analysing 2 - Paragraph analysis, practice

Summarising - Assignment: summary of a text

Paraphrasing – practice

Outlining – Assignments: - Writing an outline from a text

- Writing an outline for an essay topic

The five-paragraph essay revisited- argumentation

(Making and supporting a claim; handling counterarguments; practice)

Writing an argumentative essay 1

Writing an argumentative essay 2

Introduction to research (Definition, purposes and issues)

Choosing a topic for research (practice)

Revision and mock exam

Teaching Method:

The course will be taught in the form of a workshop in which the practice of writing will be emphasised. Students will be required to actively participate through analysing and writing short paragraphs, writing summaries, outlines and essays. In the Introduction to Research

component, they will be expected to choose a topic, outline it and gather data for the literature review.

Course requirements

Regular attendance is recommended and students are encouraged to hand in the assignments listed in the course content outlined above. Their participation in class and the regularity and quality of their assignments will be taken into consideration during the final examination deliberations.

References

- Johnson, R. 1996. Writing Essays: Guidance Notes and Sample Essays. Manchester: Clifton Press
- Kothari, C.R. 2004. Research Methodology: Methods and Techniques. New Delhi : NEW AGE INTERNATIONAL (P) LIMITED, PUBLISHERS
- Quoting, paraphrasing and summarizing:
<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/563/1/>
- Zemach, D.E., & Rumisek, L, A. 2005. Academic Writing: From Paragraph to Essay. Macmillan