

Advanced Academic Abilities

Code: 42287
ECTS Credits: 15

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
4313157 Advanced English Studies	OB	0	A

Contact

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Use of languages

Principal working language: english (eng)

Teachers

Sonia Oliver del Olmo
Sonia Alexandra Prunean
Jordi Coral Escola

Prerequisites

All students should have a C1 level of English or the equivalent in order to follow the course and to be able to produce assignments at a level that will be required for their final MA thesis. Students will be expected to follow and undertake practical work with advanced texts in the fields of language and literature.

Objectives and Contextualisation

The aim of this module is to reach an advanced level of written competences in academic English. In this sense, students will work on complex textual structures, rhetorical and argumentative strategies and format and style issues besides getting familiar with the most prototypical genres of academic and literary discourses.

Students will be shown the basic skills to carry out quality research in terms of contents and methods. In this vein, an updated state of the arts as to current research fields within English Studies will be provided and sessions around information search and reference management will be organized. Finally, students will be using technological tools to facilitate quality research.

Skills

- Analyse and synthesise information at an advanced level.
- Apply methodological knowledge of statistical analysis and data generation, treatment and codification of multilingual databases, analysis of literary texts, etc. to research.
- Communicate the knowledge acquired and the contributions of ones research correctly, accurately and clearly both orally and in writing.
- Critically argue, issue judgements and present ideas on the basis of the analysis of information originating from scientific production in these areas.
- Develop autonomous learning skills applicable to the research process.
- Show respect towards the opinions, values, behaviours and/or practices of others.
- Use new technologies for capturing and organising information relevant to lifelong learning and problem-solving in professional activities.
- Use the English language for academic and professional purposes related to research into the acquisition, teaching and use of English as a second language in multilingual and multicultural contexts, literary studies and cultural studies.
- Work effectively in teams in multilingual, multicultural and interdisciplinary professional and/or academic environments.

Learning outcomes

1. Analyse and synthesise information at an advanced level.
2. Analyse the appropriateness and fluidity of discourse in English from the grammatical, rhetorical and literary points of view.
3. Communicate the knowledge acquired and the contributions of ones research correctly, accurately and clearly both orally and in writing.
4. Critically consider and analyse the readings and materials proposed in the linguistic and literary fields.
5. Develop autonomous learning skills applicable to the research process.
6. Orally present academic work in a clear and organised manner that is appropriate for the linguistic and/or literary field.
7. Show respect towards the opinions, values, behaviours and/or practices of others.
8. Use new technologies for capturing and organising information relevant to lifelong learning and problem-solving in professional activities.
9. Work effectively in teams in multilingual, multicultural and interdisciplinary professional and/or academic environments.
10. Write texts of an advanced academic level, observing the rules for style and organisation in English.

Content

1. *Academic Writing Workshop* (6 credits) (semester B)

This is a one-group seminar for all language and literature students taught by Dr Alexandra Prunean. The workshop will focus on formal aspects of academic writing (abstracts, formulating a TFM proposal, referencing) and will be eminently practical in its aims and methods.

2. *Doing Research* (6 credits)

This seminar will be concerned with the difficulties students typically encounter when doing research for the first time. This part of the module is designed to encourage students to formulate a research project, put their conclusions in writing (in the form of a 'publishable' article), and present it to the rest of the class. It is organized as a progression from the earliest stages of research to the very final one, i.e. the completion and revision of an article.

a) Literature Students:

Seminar convened by Dr Jordi Coral, semester A

b) Language Students:

Seminar convened by Dr Sònia Oliver, semester B

3. Lectures and conferences (3 credits)

In this part of the module students will be able to get to know the research community through a series of conferences and lectures, as well as the attendance to a conference/workshop on some area of the MA itinerary (Language or Literature) where students are enrolled.

Methodology

This course lasts both semesters of the academic year and it has three parts (1) a general training involving the academic abilities needed to undertake research and to present and write an academic thesis or paper for a conference; (2) an area specific training in either language or literature on how to address specific academic abilities and research sources related to each discipline; (3) a series of area specific lectures by invited speakers, as well as attendance to an area specific conference.

Both the general training session and the area specific training sessions will be organized around the following activities

- Lectures to introduce basic theoretical concepts, class discussions on set readings, practical cases and exercises
- Oral presentations
- Practical sessions at the library to learn how to use information resources

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Type: Directed			
Follow-up assignments based on lectures (area specific)	15	0.6	4, 6, 8, 9
Lectures/conferences	15	0.6	1, 2, 4, 7, 9
Practical in-class workshops (both area specific and general)	30	1.2	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
Specific readings	30	1.2	
Tutorials	15	0.6	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
Type: Supervised			
Oral presentations (area specific)	10	0.4	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
Practical sessions to learn to use information sources	15	0.6	1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9
Type: Autonomous			
Assignments (area specific)	25	1	1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10
Final research paper (area specific)	40	1.6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10
Preparing oral presentation	20	0.8	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9

Evaluation

Course grade = a) + b)

Detailed assessment items of each part of the module:

a) Academic Writing Workshop (50%)

Titles 10%

Abstract writing - 30%

Draft Proposal - 30%

Use of quotations and referencing - 20%

Lectures - 10% (attendance is compulsory)

b) Research module (Language or Literature) (50%)

Language:

Literature Review - 15%

EAP Critical Discourse Analysis - 15%

Oral Presentation - 20%

Final Paper - 50%

Literature:

Class presentation - 20%

Class participation - 20%

Course project (writing) - 60%

STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO EMPLOY NON-SEXIST LANGUAGE IN THEIR WRITTEN AND ORAL PRODUCTIONS. FOR GUIDELINES ON HOW TO DO THIS, THEY ARE ADVISED TO CHECK THE WEBSITE OF THE LINGUISTIC SOCIETY OF AMERICA (LSA)

APPROPRIATE USE OF LANGUAGE WILL BE PART OF THE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA.

Evaluation activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Academic writing workshop and lectures	50%	96.25	3.85	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
Research module (Language or Literature)	50%	63.75	2.55	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10

Bibliography

FINAL PAPER OPTIONS

1. LANGUAGE

Alcaráz Varó, Enrique. 2000. *Inglés Profesional y Académico*. Madrid: Alianza.
Fortanet, Immaculada; Palmer, Juan Carlos.& Posteguillo, Santiago (eds.)2003.

Linguistic studies in academic and professional English. Col·lecció "Estudis Filològics" Núm.17. Publicacions de la Universitat Jaume I, Castelló de la Plana.

Hartley, Janet. 2008. *Academic Writing and Publishing. A practical handbook*. Routledge, New York.

Martín-Martín, Pedro. 2005. *The Rhetoric of the Abstract in English and Spanish Scientific Discourse. A Cross-Cultural Genre-Analytic Approach*. Peter Lang. European University Studies. Series XXI. Linguistics. Vol.279.

Pecorari, Diane. 2008. *Academic Writing and Plagiarism. A Linguistic Analysis*. Continuum, London/New York.

Scott, Mike. & Tribble, Chris. 2006. *Textual patterns. Key words and corpus analysis in language education*. Studies in Corpus Linguistics. John Benjamins Publishing Company, Amsterdam / Philadelphia.

Swales, John M. 1990. *Genre Analysis. English in Academic and Research Settings*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Swales, John M. & B. Feak, Christine. 2000. *English in Today's Research World. A Writing Guide*. Michigan Series in English for Academic and Professional Purposes. The University of Michigan Press.

Whitt, Richard J. 2010. *Evidentiality and Perception Verbs in English and German. German Linguistic and Cultural Studies*. Editor: Peter Rolf Lutzeier, volume 26. Peter Lang, Bern, Switzerland.

W e b s i t e s :

Guies de la Biblioteca de la UAB: <http://ddd.uab.cat/collection/guibib>
 Recursos per a la investigació: <http://ddd.uab.cat/collection/guibibaju?ln=es>

2. LITERATURE

Andrews, Richard, *Research Questions*, 2004.

Barras, Robert, *Students Must Write. A Guide to Better Writing in Coursework and Examinations*, 1995.

Barzun, Jacques and Gratt, Henry F., *The Modern Researcher*, 1992.

Berry, Ralph, *The Research Project: How to Write It*, 1994.

Melony, Judith, *Writing the Qualitative Dissertation. Understanding by Doing*, 2002.

Muldering, Gerald P., *The Hoath Guide to Writing a Research Paper*, 1992.

Turabian, Kate L., *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, U of Chicago P, 1993.