

Advanced Academic Abilities

Code: 42287
ECTS Credits: 15

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
4313157 Advanced English Studies	OB	0	A

Contact

Name: Jordi Coral Escola
Email: Jordi.Coral@uab.cat

Use of Languages

Principal working language: english (eng)

Teachers

Noelia Sanchez Campos
Sonia Oliver del Olmo
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 allow students to reach an advanced level of written competences in academic English. In this sense, students will work with complex textual structures, rhetorical and argumentative strategies and format and style issues besides getting familiarised with the most essential issues concerning academic and literary discourses.

Students will acquire the basic skills to carry out quality research in terms of contents and methods. Current research fields within English Studies will be discussed and sessions around information search and reference management will be organized. Finally, students will learn how to use effectively the main tools that facilitate quality research.

Competences

- 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)

This is a one-group seminar for all language and literature students taught by Dr Noèlia Sanchez. 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

b) Language Students:

Seminar convened by Dr Sònia Oliver

3. *Lectures, conferences and invited talks* (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 of a conference/workshop on specific areas of their respective MA itineraries (Language or Literature).

Methodology

This course comprises 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 and area specific sessions will be structured around the following activities:

- Lectures introducing 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	6, 4, 9, 8
Lectures/conferences	15	0.6	1, 2, 7, 4, 9
Practical in-class workshops (both area specific and general)	30	1.2	1, 2, 3, 7, 10, 6, 4, 9, 8
Specific readings	30	1.2	
Tutorials	15	0.6	1, 3, 7, 5, 6, 4
Type: Supervised			
Oral presentations (area specific)	10	0.4	3, 7, 5, 6, 4, 9, 8
Practical sessions about the effective use information sources	15	0.6	1, 7, 5, 4, 9, 8
Type: Autonomous			
Assignments (area specific)	25	1	1, 2, 5, 10, 4, 9, 8
Final research paper (area specific)	40	1.6	1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 4, 8
Preparing oral presentation	20	0.8	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 4, 9, 8

Assessment

Course grade = a) + b) + c)

Detailed assessment items of each part of the module:

a) Academic Writing Workshop (40%)

Topics - 10%

Writing practice - 30%

Referencing - 20%

TFM preparation - 30%

written part (15%)

oral presentation (15%)

Attendance - 10%

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

Language:

Abstract writing proposal - 15%

EAP Critical Discourse Analysis - 15%

Oral Presentation - 20%

Final Paper - 50%

Literature:

Class presentation - 20%

Class participation - 30%

Course project (writing) - 50%

c) Attendance of PhD workshop and a minimum of three invited lectures -- (10%)

VERY IMPORTANT: Total or partial plagiarism of any of the exercises will automatically be considered "fail" (0) for the plagiarized item. Plagiarism is copying one or more sentences from unidentified sources, presenting it as original work (THIS INCLUDES COPYING PHRASES OR FRAGMENTS FROM THE INTERNET AND ADDING THEM WITHOUT MODIFICATION TO A TEXT WHICH IS PRESENTED AS ORIGINAL). Plagiarism is a serious offense. Students must learn to respect the intellectual property of others, identifying any source they may use, and take responsibility for the originality and authenticity of the texts they produce.

Re-assessment for this subject requires a content-synthesis test for each module component. Component c) is not eligible for re-assessment. The definitive grade awarded for a re-assessed item will be 5.

Assessment Activities

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

Bibliography

1. CORE COMPONENT (LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE)

How to Do Research

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.

2. FINAL PAPER OPTIONS

2.1. 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-AnalyticApproach*. 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>

2.2. 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.
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