

**In the Name of God**

**Academic writing (BA Program, Fall 2023)**

**Venue: Room 125, Faculty of Persian Literature and Foreign Languages, Semnan University (Iran)**

**Meeting time: Saturdays (10:30 am)**

**Dr S. Yahya Hejazi**

**Email: [hejazi@semnan.ac.ir](mailto:hejazi@semnan.ac.ir)**

### **Description**

This course aims to familiarize you with major paragraph types (e.g., definition and cause-and-effect) and refresh your skills and knowledge in terms of the mechanical aspects of academic writing. Additionally, several workshops are organized to provide you with practical feedbacks on your writing assignments, which may in turn foster your autonomy in academic writing.

### **Course requirements**

1. Careful reading of the assigned materials and doing the exercises BEFORE each session
2. Active participation in *both* class and workshop sessions
3. Punctuality: Students who are absent in more than THREE sessions (or, in rare cases, 4 sessions) will be automatically dropped from the course.

### **Grading policy**

Active participation in class and workshop sessions: 10 %

Oral presentations: 10 %

Writing assignments: 30 %

Final examination: 50 %

### **Reference**

Meyers, A. (2006). *Composing with confidence: Writing effective paragraphs and essays* (7<sup>th</sup> Edition). Pearson Longman.

## Weekly schedule

Weeks 1-2: Introduction to the course (Meyers, 2006: Chapters 1 'Reasons for writing', 2 'The composing process', and 3 'Composing a powerful paragraph')

Weeks 3-4: Strengthening your writing (Meyers, 2006: Chapter 5 'Developing ideas', Chapter 6 'Achieving coherence', Chapter 7 'Writing directly and vividly', and Chapter 8 'Creating sentence variety')

Week 5: Composing a description (Meyers, 2006: Chapter 9)

Week 6: Composing narratives (Meyers, 2006: Chapter 10)

### The 1<sup>st</sup> writing workshop to analyze students' paragraphs

Week 7: Explaining a process (Meyers, 2006: Chapter 11)

Week 8: Drawing comparisons and contrasts (Meyers, 2006: Chapter 12)

### The 2<sup>nd</sup> writing workshop to analyze students' paragraphs

Week 9: Making classifications (Meyers, 2006: Chapter 13)

Week 10: Composing definitions (Meyers, 2006, Chapter 14)

### The 3<sup>rd</sup> writing workshop to analyze students' paragraphs

Week 11: Examining causes or effects (Meyers, 2006, Chapter 15)

Week 12: Writing complete sentences (Meyers, 2006, Chapter 20) and Joining sentences through subordination and coordination (Meyers, 2006, Chapter 21)

### The 4<sup>th</sup> writing workshop to analyze students' paragraphs

Week 13: Checking subject-verb agreement and noun plurals (Meyers, 2006, Chapter 22) and Checking past-tense and past-participle forms (Meyers, 2006, Chapter 23)

Week 14: Achieving consistency (Meyers, 2006, Chapter 24), Using pronouns (Meyers, 2006, Chapter 25), and Strengthening modifiers (Meyers, 2006, Chapter 26)

Week 15: Using apostrophes, hyphens, and capital letters (Meyers, 2006, Chapter 27) and Checking punctuation (Meyers, 2006, Chapter 28)

### The 5<sup>th</sup> writing workshop to analyze students' paragraphs

Week 16: Final examination