

In His Name

Academic writing (MA program in applied linguistics, Fall 2024)

Venue: Room 111, Faculty of Persian Literature and Foreign Languages, Semnan University (Iran)

Meeting time: Tuesdays, 1-3 pm

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Course description

This course mainly aims to promote your capacity for using academic English in writing your thesis and, possibly, research papers in the field of applied linguistics. To this end, it adopts a genre-informed orientation and goes beyond writing grammatically well-formed sentences, which you have already mastered at your BA. In doing so, you are provided with key rhetorical moves, essential skills, and useful linguistic resources and strategies which are essential for writing different chapters and sections of your MA thesis and a typical research paper, respectively. Moreover, some practical workshop sessions are organized to promote your competence and autonomy for the aforementioned purposes.

Course requirements

1. Careful reading of the assigned materials 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: 15 %

Oral presentations and workshops: 25 %

Term project: 10 %

Final examination: 50 %

Weekly schedule

Week 1: Introduction to the course (Fang, 2021: Chapter 1)

Week 2: Linguistic features of academic writing (Fang, 2021: Chapter 2)

Weeks 3 & 4: Skills and strategies for academic writing (Fang, 2021: Chapters 3 & 4)

Weeks 5: Practical workshop (No. 1) to examine some research papers based on what you learned in weeks 1-4

Week 6: Practical workshop (No. 2) on how to find the most suitable, relevant sources in Scopus and Web of Science

Week 7: Different sections of a typical empirical research paper and their key moves and steps (Fang, 2021, Chapter 9)

Week 8: How to write the *Introduction* chapter of MA thesis (Bitchener, 2010, Chapter 3)

Week 9: How to write the *Literature Review* chapter of MA thesis (Bitchener, 2010, Chapter 4)

Week 10: How to write the *Methodology* chapter of MA thesis (Bitchener, 2010, Chapter 5)

Week 11: How to write the *Results* chapter of MA thesis (Bitchener, 2010, Chapter 6)

Week 12: How to write the *Discussion* chapter of MA thesis (Bitchener, 2010, Chapter 7)

Week 13: How to write the *Conclusion* chapter of MA thesis (Bitchener, 2010, Chapter 8)

Week 14: How to write the Abstract of MA thesis (Bitchener, 2010, Chapter 2)

Week 15: Writing for scholarly publication (Fang, 2021, Chapter 12)

Week 16: Practical workshop (No. 3) for analyzing and writing different sections of a research paper and thesis

Week 17: An overview of some useful APA 7 guidelines (Key sources and materials for this week will be introduced in due time.)

Week 18: Final examination

References

Bitchener, J. (2010). *Writing an applied linguistics thesis or dissertation: A guide to presenting empirical research*. Routledge.

Fang, Z. (2021). *Demystifying academic writing: Genres, moves, skills, and strategies*. Routledge.