

In the Name of God

Essay writing (BA Program, Fall 2025)

Venue: Room 123, Faculty of Persian Literature and Foreign Languages, Semnan University (Iran)

Meeting time: Mondays (8:30 – 10:30 am)

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Description

This course aims to strengthen and extend students' academic writing abilities beyond the foundations established in the *Advanced Writing* course. It reinforces paragraph-level skills such as unity, coherence, and effective support, while guiding students in transitioning from well-structured paragraphs to full academic essays. The course further aims to develop students' ability to integrate outside sources ethically through paraphrasing, summarizing, and proper citation. Throughout the semester, students will apply the stages of the writing process to produce clear, coherent, and well-organized texts across major essay types, including process, cause-and-effect, comparison/contrast, and argumentative essays. Ultimately, the course seeks to build students' confidence and independence as writers capable of producing extended academic texts with accuracy, clarity, and critical thinking.

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%

Writing assignments: 40%

Final examination: 50%

Reference

Oshima, A., Hogue, A., & Ravitch, L. (2014). *Longman Academic writing Series: Essays* (Vol. 4). Pearson Longman.

Weekly schedule

Weeks 1: Introduction to the course; Paragraph structure (Ch. 1)

Weeks 2: Unity and Coherence (Ch. 2)

Week 3: Using outside sources (Ch. 3)

Week 4: From paragraph to essay (Ch. 4)

Week 5: The 1st writing workshop to analyze students' essays

Week 6: Process essays (Ch. 5)

Week 7: Cause-and-effect essays (Ch. 6)

Weeks 8-9: The 2nd writing workshop to analyze students' essays

Week 10: Comparison/Contrast essays (Ch. 7)

Week 11: Argumentative essays (Ch. 8)

Weeks 12-14: The 3rd writing workshop to analyze students' Essays

Week 15: Artificial Intelligence (AI) in writing

Week 16: wrap-up