Research Writing and Information Literacy
3 Credit Course.   Sections: 2/4/9/15

WELCOME!

Hello! My name is Gamil. I am your instructor for this course. I am excited to have the chance to work with you this semester. I enjoy teaching academic writing, and I am committed to making this course very valuable to you. We will learn how to reflect on the processes of reading, thinking, and writing. Please think of any other specific personal learning goals and let me tailor this course to satisfy them.

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Instructor: Gamil Alamrani	gamil.alamrani@scupi.cn (preferred)	28-6259-6919	SCUPI R: 427	Mon/ Tues **8.30 am-1.30 pm** Wed/ Fri: **11-3.30 pm** **Available on Thurs. by appointment**

Student Learning Outcomes

Students completing this course will learn how to:

1. use digital tools, like search engines and library databases to find print and electronic resources.
2. evaluate research resources for quality, and properly cite these sources in students' own work in addition to synthesizing research materials through coherent reasoning.
3. critically and creatively use writing to express concepts or ideas.
4. create and annotate bibliographies.
5. propose a research project according to professional genres.
6. compose a research project following proper style-guides, demonstrating college-level writing in English.
7. present research findings using multi-modal compositions and public speaking.

Course Description

ENGCMP 200 builds on ENG152 by focusing on research writing and information literacy. In this course, students will gain exposure to academic writing, learn to synthesize research sources, employ proper conventions of citation, write using professional and academic genres, use digital tools for researching secondary sources, and deliver academic presentations. The course stresses active learning, collaborative projects, multi-modal communications, academic readings, and student-led research to answer questions and solve problems. The semester covers the basics of formulating research questions, creating a research plan, writing a proposal, synthesizing information, and writing a research paper.

Prerequisites
ENGCMP 152

Required Textbooks

Hacker, D., & Sommers, N. (2018). *A writer's reference.* Bedford/St. Martin's (9th Ed.).

Course Schedule (Tentative to class needs and instructor's discretion).

	Topic(s)	Textbook Readings	Assignments
1 9/2	Introduction	Syllabus APA-5B Sample APA research paper	
2 9/9	Exploring research topics; creating keyword searches	R1-b Posing questions worth exploring. R1-d Searching efficiently	Forum 1
3 9/16	Annotated bibliography	R2 Managing information; taking notes responsibly	Forum 2
4 9/23	Writing an Annotation. Quoting, paraphrasing, and summarizing	R3-e Constructing an annotated bibliography	Forum 3
5 9/30	National Day Holiday (No class)		
6 10/8	Writing workshop annotated bibliography.	Peer review forms	Forum 4
7 10/14	Cataloging the literature Coherence, logic, and evidence	APA-3 a-c Integrating sources. APA 3-d Synthesizing sources	ASSIGNMENT 1 DUE
8 10/21	Documenting sources in APA.	APA-4 Documenting sources	Forum 5
9 10/28	Outlining the research paper Peer review	APA 1 Supporting a thesis	Forum 6
10 11/4	Writing the body of the literature	APA-5B Sample APA research paper	Forum 7
11 11/11	Discussing the literature	R3-c Reading with an open mind and a critical eye	ASSIGNMENT 2 DUE

12 11/18	Creating the poster	http://hsp.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/ScientificPosters.pdf	Forum 8
13 11/25	Poster Presentations Teacher conference	A5: Speaking confidently	ASSIGNMENT 4 Poster DUE
14 12/2	Poster Presentations Teacher conference	A5: Speaking confidently	
15 12/9	Writing workshop research paper Formatting research papers in APA	Peer review form APA-5A APA manuscript format	
16 12/16	Wrap up the course		ASSIGNMENT 3 DUE

Course Structure and Activities:

Our writing course includes several group and individual settings and learning activities. The following description should give you an idea of the structure and the activities that we will have throughout the semester:

1. Every class session includes three parts (what I call a **PIE system**: Principle, Illustration, and Example). We introduce our topic for the day, have a brief discussion, and practice a couple of examples.
2. This is **a practical course in writing**, so students are expected to write, individually or in groups, for at least one-third of every class session.
3. Students start drafting and writing their papers in class for every assignment. Then, we conduct writing workshops and peer reviews of first-draft assignments.
4. The course involves several reading and writing assignments, meaning students will work **extra hours at home**.
5. The course follows **a hybrid module of learning** which includes in-class and online writing activities (Our **course Blog and discussions on Bb**).
6. Throughout the semester, you will document your progress through active and responsive documentation of the best of your writing materials, blog entries, and copies of your draft and final assignments (**Course Portfolio**).

Assignments and Evaluation

Below is a breakdown of the course's assignments and grading scale. Each essay and writing assignment will have a detailed prompt with instructions about content, format, and submission

procedures. Unless discussed with the instructor previously, late assignments will not be accepted, and the failure to complete your work will result in a failing grade.

ASSIGNMENT 1 Proposal with Annotated Bibliography	A proposal with an annotated bibliography	10%
ASSIGNMENT 2 Formal Outline	A full-sentence outline, research question(s) answered by findings from synthesized literature	20%
ASSIGNMENT 3 Research Paper	2000-word research paper, APA style	40%
ASSIGNMENT 4 Poster Presentation	A poster presentation on students' research project	10%
ASSIGNMENT 5 Participation and Routine Writing	attendance, homework, and in-class activities	20%
Total*		100%

Formatting:

All written work should be double-spaced, typed, in 12-point, Times New Roman font, with one-inch margins left, right, top, and bottom. Please write your name, course title, and date on the top left-hand corner of the first page.

Attendance:

Students' attendance is mandatory. Each unexcused absence will bear a penalty of half a letter grade (e.g., from a B to a B- or from a B- to a C+). For each part of a class period missed a student will receive a deduction of half the point value of a full absence. More than three absences will result in a failing grade for the semester. If you are feeling unwell or need to miss a class, inform the instructor ahead of time by email.

Participation

Active participation is crucial for language learning. Participating in class makes you an engaged learner. In this class, participation includes:

- arriving to class on time
- staying on task (including appropriate use of technology)
- actively listening to your classmates and teacher when they speak in class
- asking questions
- bringing all class materials

- attending class regularly
- completing all homework on time

- actively and constructively participating in class activities
- being prepared to answer questions
- using only English in class

Special Learning Needs:

If you have a disability or health consideration that may require accommodations, please let me know how I can accommodate you. The sooner you let us know your needs, the more quickly we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in all your courses.

The Use of Electronic Technology Policy:

Technology is meant to improve the learning environment for all students. Please be respectful of your instructor and classmates and use the technology appropriately. Students can use electronic technology (laptops, tablets, and iPads) in appropriate ways during classes. Out of respect, cell phones should generally be turned off or on silent and stored out of sight. They should not be used during classroom activities unless the instructor has given permission. Electronic devices are forbidden during quizzes, tests, or other in-class graded assignments unless the instructor has given permission. If you have any other questions or concerns about the use of technology, please talk to the instructor.

Recording

To ensure the free and open discussion of ideas, students may NOT record classroom lectures, discussions, and/or activities without the advance permission of the instructor, and any such recording properly recorded in advance can be used solely for the student's private study.

Make-up Policy for Missed Assignments

Students are responsible for the assignments in their classes. Assignments include in-class activities, quizzes, tests, homework, and any other work related to classes.

- If you are absent from class, you should try to contact one of the students in your class to find out what work or assignment was missed.
- If you cannot find out from another student about what work, you have missed when you return to class you must talk to your instructors about the missed work and if/when you can make up the work. You are responsible for talking to your teacher; your teacher is not responsible for reminding you about missed work.
- If you are absent from class on the due date of an assignment, you must hand in the assignment on a date decided with your teacher.
- If you know you will be absent, talk to your teacher before you leave or email your teacher to find out about the work that you will miss while you are away.
- If you have not been absent from class and you want to hand in an assignment late, you must first discuss the reason with your teacher before or on the due date. Do not assume that your teacher will accept late assignments. Also, you may lose points for late work based on teacher discretion.

- If you are given a second chance to make up an assignment and you miss the chance, you may receive a "0" for that assignment.

Use of Machine Translation and Other Online Writing and Language Tools

While students are encouraged to use online dictionaries and other language resources, they should not rely on machine translators or other AI tools for large sections of text. Papers must be written in English by the students themselves. Any paper that is written in Chinese and then processed through an online translator will be considered unacceptable.

If an instructor believes that a paper was written using machine translation, the instructor reserves the right to ask the student to re-write (potentially with a different topic) or give an alternative assignment, which may include a timed-writing essay assignment. Until the re-write is submitted the student will have an F for the assignment.

SCUPI Honor Code

Students in this course must follow the SCUPI Honor Code which includes:

- Getting no help from anyone, or any outside resource, to do one's work without the teacher's permission. Never copying others' words and ideas and representing them as one's work.

Note: Using AI tools to generate an essay or large sections of text will result in an F. Participating in these activities can result in an F and referral to university officials for academic integrity violations.

Student Responsibility

This syllabus is a contract between you and the instructor. It is the first place you should look for answers to your questions about course requirements, expectations, and policies. By enrolling in this course, you are agreeing to adhere to the requirements, expectations, and policies outlined in this syllabus, including sections on the SCUPI Honor Code. Students who fail to submit their work on time or miss more than 3 classes could receive a failing grade and may not graduate.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS.

Check Email:

Check your email regularly for updates. I recommend having your school email linked to your cell phone to get email notifications in case of last-minute changes. I will make every effort to respond to emails within 48 hours except on weekends and holidays.

Come Prepared:

Come prepared to class, having read the readings and with questions to ask. Be ready to engage in small group and class-wide discussions. Your contribution will help you and your classmates do well in this course.

Manage Your Time:

Manage your time appropriately this semester. You know about every assignment in this class, and you should allocate your time accordingly. I recommend you have a time and task management system.

Save Your Work:

Save your work frequently! I recommend saving all your documents into your external Drive. It keeps your work against any possible system crash or virus!