ENGCMP152A: Foundations of Academic Research and Writing

	Instructor:	Grace Hu
Credit Hours: 1 credit	Email:	grace.hu@scupi.cn
	Office:	N105B
	Tel (Main Office):	
	Office hours:	Monday 9:00-12:00
		Monday 13:00-16:00
		Tuesday 9:00-12:00
		Wednesday 13:00-16:00
		Thursday 10:00-13:00
Room: S501	Prerequisites:	ENGCMP150

Required Text:

1. Hacker, D. & Sommers, N. (2017). *A writer's reference* (9th ed.)*.* Boston, New York: Bedford/St. Martin's.
2. Supplementary materials handed in class or posted on Blackboard.

Course Description

This one-credit course is designed to equip all Sichuan University - Pittsburgh Institute (SCUPI) students who are taking ENGCMP152 with a working knowledge of the key aspects of academic writing. Through a series of focused topics, students will learn to navigate the complexities of academic writing, including the use of APA style, searching for resources, evaluating sources critically, and developing a strong thesis statement. The course is comprised of classes and revision workshops. It is compulsory for each student to attend a minimum of three 30-minute (or longer depending on unfolding needs and circumstances) revision workshops with the instructor throughout the semester, as well as eight two-hour classes. Through a combination of classes, workshops, assignments, and feedback, students will develop essential skills for academic research and writing.

Outcomes

With the successful completion of the ENGCMP152A courses and workshops, students will be able to supplement the skills derived from their ENGCMP152 course in terms of:

- Using writing strategies for the fluent, appropriate and accurate expression of academic genres in SCUPI and beyond with the use of an appropriate tone, style, content, organization, format, and diction;

- Structuring the content of their writing in a clear, logical, and well-organized manner with appropriate academic voice and sentence style;

- Developing clear and effective thesis statements in academic writing;

- Using digital tools, like search engines and library databases to find print and electronic resources;

- Employing critical searching and reading strategies in academic situations to evaluate research resources for credibility and relevance;

- Taking effective notes and annotating academic resources;

- Applying APA (7th Edition) formatting requirements in terms of in-text citations and end-of-text references;
- Develop an understanding of specific sentence styles and word choice in academic writing.

Assignments and Evaluation

Below is a breakdown of the course's assignments and grading scale. Each class will provide students with opportunities to participate and practice. Homework will be assigned to reinforce students' understanding of specific topics discussed in the workshop. Unless discussed with the instructor previously, late submissions will **not** be accepted, and the failure to complete your work will result in a failing grade.

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.

The final grade will be greatly affected by students' attendance and participation. Participation will be assessed holistically throughout the semester. Late attendance, use of electronic devices without the instructor's permission, non-participation in the online/in-class activities will all be negatively reflected in your grades.

- Participation and Attendance: 40%
- Weekly Assignments: 60%

Schedule (Scheduled assignments, lectures, materials, and activities may be subject to change based on the needs of the classes and workshops at the instructor's discretion.)

Week	Writing Topic	Reading	Assignment (A) Due
1	Academic voice, sentence style and structure	W4	A1 (from Week 1)
2	Revision Workshop 1		
3	Transitions and coherence in writing	C3, SW110-121	A2 (from Week 3)
4	Revision Workshop 2		
5	Introduction to the thesis statement	APA-1, SW46-59	A3 (from Week 5)
6	Revision Workshop 3		
7	Searching for resources (search engine, digital tools)	R1	A4 (from Week 7)
8	Revision Workshop 4		
9	Note-taking and annotation for resources	R1 & R2, SW37-40	A5 (from Week 9)
10	Revision Workshop 5		
11	Evaluating sources	R3	A6 (from Week 11)
12	Revision Workshop 6		
13	Introduction to APA	APA-5	A7 (from Week 13)
14	Revision Workshop 7		
15	APA style for in-text citations and references	APA-2, APA-4, SW123-137	A8 (from Week 15)

Week	Writing Topic	Reading	Assignment (A) Due
16	Revision Workshop 8		
17	Review and revision		

SCUPI Honor Code: Students in this course must follow the SCUPI Honor Code. Accordingly, the class adopts a zero-tolerance policy towards plagiarism, translator, and AI use.

Attendance Policy:

Each unexcused absence will result in a full letter grade deduction. Students with more than three absences will fail the course.

Student Use of Electronic Technology Policy:

Students must use electronic technology (including cell phones, 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.

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 own private study. Any reposting of recorded course materials may result in expulsion from the course.

Participations:
Active participation is crucial in both the consultations and the workshops. Participating in them makes you an engaged scholar. In both the classes and the workshops, participation means:
• arriving on time;
• attending classes and workshops;
• staying on task (including appropriate use of technology);
• actively and constructively participating in all activities;
• asking questions;
• being prepared to answer questions;
• bringing all the required materials;
• using only English.